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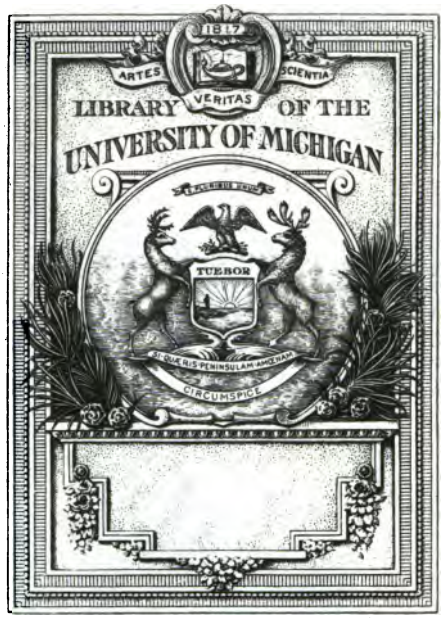
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MEMOIRS

OF

SECRET

SERVICE.

By MATTHEW SMITH
of the *Inner-Temple*, Esq.

LONDON.
Printed for *A. Baldwin* near the *Oxford*-Arms in *Warwick-lane*, 1699.

TO

The Honourable

THE

Houſe of Commons

Aſſembled in Parliament,

Some *Memoirs* of Secret Service

humbly offer'd

By MATTHEW SMITH

of the *Inner-Temple*, Eſq.

Lib.
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The Preface.

IT is not without the last reluctancy, that I resolve to publish these Papers, or rather should have said, I am oblig'd to it by the utmost Necessity. It may happen to many to have their Services not rewarded; but my Case is particular, who am reduced to the unhappy necessity of defending them.

I shall say the less upon this Occasion, for if the Matters of Fact I alledg do not carry Conviction with them, I have little to expect; and I only venture to publish 'em, because notorious Truths must prevail at this time in my favour, or I must for ever despair: And no worse Fate can be procured me by those I may displease than Starving, which is almost my present condition.

Whether I deserve the Usage I have met with; whether such kind of Services as mine were ever neglected in any other Age, I must leave to the judgment of those who will read these Papers, and satisfy themselves about them: Which when I presume to address to the Grand Inquest of the Nation, to the Honourable Representatives of the whole People, I am not insensible of the Fate I must expect, if it is not sufficiently manifest I deserve their Favour and Protection.

Some few things I must of necessity premise of my self, and my Circumstances, that what follows

may the better be underſtood. I had the honour to command the Company that did duty at Windſor-*Caſtle when his Majeſty came thither upon the Revolution. The Duke of* Norfolk, *whoſe Zeal ſufficiently appear'd on that occaſion, and to whom I ow'd my Employment, had he not been ſufficiently ſecure of my Inclination and Fidelity, would never have ſuffer'd me in that Poſt. I loſt not my Commiſſion becauſe I was unwilling to ſerve the King and this Government; but when it was taken from me, I was the leſs ſurpriz'd at my ill Fortune, Sir* William Parkyns *being my Uncle, and ſome of my Relations Roman Catholicks, tho I was ever bred a Proteſtant: yet I own I had ſome Reſentment too natural to thoſe that are diſappointed; and my Diſgrace, and other Circumſtances, brought me into a Confidence and Greatneſs with the diſaffected Party. But when I found that King* James's *Intereſts were no way to be ſupported but by Invaſions from the* French, *and by Aſſaſſinations upon the King, my Duty to my Country, my Religion, and the horror of ſuch Attempts, made me reſolve, as much as in me lay, to diſappoint ſuch damnable Deſigns.*

I do not pretend to ſo little Self-intereſt, but that I own I was pleaſed with the hopes of making my Fortune, when at the ſame time I was endeavouring to ſave my King and Country, which made me ready to lay out much of my little Stock to enable me to perform ſuch a Service.

That ſuch Services have been accounted Na-

tional,

tional, and publickly rewarded, every one knows who have read any thing of Antient or Modern Hiſtory. I ſhall inſtance but in two of the many Examples that might be given in all Ages and Governments. Immediately after the expulſion of Tarquin, *whoſe inſupportable Arrogance and Cruelty had juſtly thrown him out of* Rome, *ſeveral hot-headed Noblemen endeavour'd to reſtore their late abdicated Prince: Theſe Deſigns were happily detected by a Slave, the Conſpirators were brought to condign Puniſhment; and how the Diſcoverer was recompenſed* Livy *informs us,* Lib. 2. Secundum pœnam nocentium, ut in utramque partem arcendis ſceleribus exemplum Nobile eſſet, præmium indici, pecunia ex ærario, Libertas & Civitas data: *that is, next to the care they took in puniſhing the Criminals as they deſerv'd, that they might ſecure themſelves from any ſuch Attempt for the future, and give an eminent Inſtance that they knew how to reward, as well as to puniſh, they immediately decreed to the Diſcoverer,* a Gratuity out of the publick Treaſury, and gave him, with his Liberty, the Freedom of the City. *Which laſt was the greateſt Complement the* Romans *could beſtow, ſince Kings, and Crowned Heads, who deſerv'd well of the Republick, receiv'd it as the higheſt Favour. Thus we ſee what Meaſures the* Romans *(the beſt Judges of true Honour and Policy) took upon theſe Occaſions. But of more weight are Examples from* Sacred Writ; *and I ſhall only deſire*

the

the Reader to consider, whether Mordecai *did not deserve the noble Reward* Ahasuerus *gave him.*

I will leave it to any impartial Reader, who consults the following Memoirs, *to judg whether the Discoveries made by me, have not been the most early and ample, both as to the* Assassination *and intended* Invasion. *I scorn to lessen the Services of others, and 'tis below me to envy the Advantages they have reaped by them: but I'll be bold to say,* That a more perfect discovery of a Design of this nature was never yet made in the World. *Now that my Letters, and the Dates of them are Authentick, I suppose no rational Man will doubt, when he is inform'd they were long since sealed up, and left in Sir* William Trumbull's *Custody; when he is inform'd that the Originals lodg'd in the House of Peers by their Order, are in the Duke of* Shrewsbury's *and Secretary* Vernon's *own hands, and given in upon Oath. But however I refer my self as to that matter, to his Grace of* Shrewsbury's *own Letter upon that occasion read in the* House of Lords.

If my unlucky Stars have carried my Discoveries too far, (at least in the opinion of some People) I have this to say, 'twas wholly owing to accident: If they prove of use to the Publick, I claim no Merit, and I am sure I deserve no blame, for what I could not either help or prevent. I was brought in Custody to the House of Lords, when scarce any knew my Lodging but my Lord Portland,

or Sir William Trumbull, *and examined upon Oath. My Caution and Reſerve was ſufficiently apparent to every body; and thoſe that preſs'd me ſo far, and made it impoſſible for me to conceal thoſe Tranſactions that I never intended to publiſh, knew beſt whether they ſerv'd the Publick, or their Friends. Had there been any Objections to be made to me, I leave the World to judg what Fate I had met with; I think I may ſay it was a Seaſon of Severity, or at leaſt of ſtrict Juſtice: And thoſe that might be offended with me at that time, wanted not Power to have me expoſed. But there being no room for that, the next thing was to have me ridicul'd for a ſilly medling Fellow, who pick'd up Scraps of* Coffee-houſe *Intelligence, who was only fed with Stories that one* Hewet *affirm'd he took out of* publick Prints *to furniſh me withal. Now ſuppoſing this to be the Caſe, I had ſome little Ability, or much good Luck, to be able, for ſo many months together, to impoſe ſuch Trifles upon the Duke of* Shrewſbury, *and the now Secretary* Vernon, *to have ſo many of their Letters in return of mine, to have had ſo often Sums of Money from them, tho I confeſs in no proportion to the important Occaſions for which I deſired them. Neither is it leſs extraordinary, that the then Earl of* Monmouth, *and Secretary* Trumbull, *ſhould not have diſcovered in ſo long a time the weak ſide of a Man ſo ridiculous, who dealt in ſuch idle Tales. But above all my good Fortune was the greateſt, when*

when my Lord Portland *was pleaſed to give me a Preſent in Money from the King, and aſſurances of Favour and Protection, after his Majeſty had given an Audience and Reception, which I muſt confeſs was above any Merit I can pretend to; and which, to ſay no more, ſo diſcerning a* Prince *would not have beſtow'd on a mere Trifler.*

It may farther be thought, that I am not altogether that Trifler, if it be conſider'd that in December 1694. *I diſcover'd where a quantity of Arms were conceal'd in Sir* William Parkyns's *Houſe in* Warwickſhire, *whilſt the* Lancaſhire *Plot was under examination in the Parliament, which were not thought fit to be ſeized, tho often urged, until they were actually convey'd from the place where I firſt diſcover'd them, and hid under ground. Which Arms remain as an Evidence of my ſaid Diſcovery in a place in the* Tower *to this day: As alſo the* Dyes *of the* Tower, *which were convey'd away by* Hewet *and others, by the help of Mr.* Roetier, *and which were at Mr.* Vernon's *Houſe on Sunday the 19th of* January 1695. *diſcover'd by me in order to prevent the ſame, of which upon after-examination I believe the Earl of* Peterborough *and Secretary* Trumbull *will do me right. All which I hope leave room to believe I did merit ſomething better from the Government than to be thought a Trifler.*

I know my own Imperfections, and confeſs I had not Confidence or Ability enough to keep me from the higheſt ſurprize, when I was brought in cuſto-

dy

dy to the House of Lords, *without having had the leaſt intimation from any Perſon whatſoever of what might be the occaſion of it; and my ſurprize was the more increaſed, when I found afterwards that I could have no acceſs to the Earl of* Portland, *the then Earl of* Monmouth, *or Secretary* Trumbull, *and yet nothing laid to my charge that could forfeit me an Honour I had ſo often had. But I was not long without ſome apprehenſions of my Caſe, when waiting afterwards upon the Earl of* Monmouth *at the* Tower, *he at my coming into the Room ſeem'd uneaſy, and immediately call'd in the* Warder, *but very civilly told me, 'twas not to affront me, or from any ill Opinion conceiv'd of me that he took that meaſure, but that he thought it beſt for himſelf and me to have no further Converſation, injoining me to trouble him no more with publick Matters, which he would not concern himſelf withal, nor to viſit him upon any other Occaſion; which Commands I have very ſubmiſſively obſerv'd ever ſince. I was the more ſurpriz'd at the like coldneſs from Sir* William Trumbull, *becauſe he was in a publick Character. However I ſhall not complain of what I may think ſome Hardſhips from theſe* Noble Perſons, *who I do not doubt will do me Juſtice when there is occaſion, ſince Truth is all I ask. But be it as my Enemies would have it, my weakneſs and inſufficiency ſhall be acknowledg'd by my ſelf; yet I hope it will never be imputed to me as a Crime, that in the preſent miſerable poſture of my Affairs,*

I humbly refer my self, and my unfortunate Circumstances, to the impartial Judgment of the Honourable House of Commons.

Tho I am ready to confess my self a weak Man, I shall defend my self from having committed Actions below a Gentleman, and only beg leave to say one word upon this Subject, which I think may be sufficient to convince the World upon what foot I serv'd the Government, viz. That it was from a Principle that I did it, like a Gentleman as I was born and bred; and that Monies and Profit were not my only Motives. After the thousand Pound a Head Reward was set upon the Conspirators, Holms, *whose Name was in the Proclamation, lay one night with me in my own Lodgings; yet because I might the better enable my self to countermine all their Projects, and consequently be more capable of serving my Country, and to avoid the ungrateful appearance of betraying any body for Money, I let him go out of the House when he was otherwise sufficiently look'd after: My management in this particular was approv'd by a Minister of State. Thus I let a certain Reward slip out of my hands on a point of Honour and Zeal for the Service of the Government. And I would desire no better an issue for me, than to have it judg'd by the Honourable House of Commons, upon what I can lay before them, Whether it were not feizable for me to have secured the Rewards of seizing ten of them as well as one, as much a Fool as some have endeavour'd*

deavour'd to represent me? Perhaps many may think I my self give the greatest proof of it in this Instance; 10000 l. *were a good Stake for a Man who had liv'd so long upon bare Promises: I thought it a little hard I confess, for one who had dealt thus with the Government, to have no other Recompence, than to be brought to the Bar of the* House of Lords *in custody, and confronted there with* Hewet *at liberty, who was Nephew to* Holms *one of the principal Assassinators, and himself had been secured for Treason; and that such a Person should have been question'd upon Oath in Matters relating to me, which if he had owned the Truth, he must have been his own Accuser.*

After all this, when it shall appear by some Matters of Fact that I shall afterwards give an account of, that the greatest Sums of Money I ever receiv'd at any time, have been given me since all these Transactions, and under pretence of my serving the Publick with Intelligence; *to some I conceive it will appear extraordinary, that the disbanded Fool, made uncapable by themselves, should be again taken into Service: but of this the Reader must suspend his Judgement till I have laid before him the Matters of Fact.*

Before I proceed to them, there remains only this one Point, and that is, to justify my Behaviour to so near a Relation engag'd in those Plots I was endeavouring to detect. I solemnly protest, nothing was wanting in me to dissuade Sir William

liam Parkyns *from the wrong ways in which I ſaw him imbark'd, and what I affirm I can give the World ſufficient proofs of. But he was ſo fond of the preceding Meaſures of the* Compounding *Party, and had ſo deeply ingag'd in them, that he thought it not ſafe to retreat; and ſo was drawn, contrary to his Inclinations, into Undertakings more violent and dangerous. I was intruſted and imploy'd by him in the Settlement of his Eſtate and Concerns.* And the greateſt diſappointment I had, in not having that Juſtice done me to the King, of letting him know that I was the firſt Diſcoverer of the Plot, was the being prevented from making my humble Requeſt to his Majeſty for my Uncle's Life, which I think would hardly have been refuſed to my Service. *And this Matter of Fact I am oblig'd to mention for my own juſtification, that having intimation he might have been wrought up to a Confeſſion, I preſs'd Mr. Secretary* Vernon *to procure me an admiſſion to him, which could not be obtain'd.*

Before I conclude this Addreſs, which I have made as ſhort as poſſibly I could, I muſt beg leave to make one Remark upon R. K. *Author of a late Book intitled,* A true Hiſtory of the ſeveral Deſigns and Conſpiracies, from the Year 1688, to 1697. *He pretends,* pag. 187. That the Diſcoverers peremptorily refuſing to name the Conſpirators, might have been of fatal Conſequence, if the Earl of *Portland* had not found

found out the happy Expedient to prevent it, by perſwading his Majeſty to give himſelf the trouble of examining Mr. *Pendergraſs* and Mr. *De la Rue* himſelf in his Cloſet. *And this was on the* 21ſt *of* February 1695. *in the Evening. Whereas the Reader will find by the following Letters, that I gave notice of that barbarous Deſign againſt his Majeſty's Life, on the* 5th *of* January 95. *and on the* 10th *of* February 95. *and perſonally told a Great Miniſter in the Government of the ſaid Deſign, and then gave him the Names of two of the principal Conſpirators,* viz. *Sir* George Barclay, *and Major* Holmes; *and a full Account a few days after, with many of the Conſpirators Names, as appears by the Letters dated the* 14th *and* 19th *of the ſaid Month* 1695. *thoſe Letters containing a more full and ample Account of that barbarous Deſign than any yet extant. I am only now relating Matters of Fact, without pretending to draw Inferences; yet in my poor Opinion I may venture to ſay, there never was ſo clear a Diſcovery as I made of ſo dark a Deſign, ſince I diſcovered the Plot, the Names of many of the Actors in it, the place where, and manner how it was to be put in execution, and offer'd at a very reaſonable and ſmall Expence, to deliver all the Conſpirators in the very Fact, ſafely into the hands of the Government. Thoſe that conſider this, and the* fatal Conſequences *the* Doctor *ſpeaks of, that the Diſcoverers refuſed peremptorily to name the Conſpirators,*

ſpirators, may juſtly wonder that I was never ſent for upon that Occaſion, either to the King, or Cabinet; and may be more ſurprized perhaps when they'r informed, that for near a Year after I could not be introduced to his Majeſty, tho applying my ſelf for that purpoſe to the Duke of Norfolk, *the Earl of* Peterborough, *and Sir* William Trumbull. *Their Wonder may yet increaſe when they conſider, that after I was once admitted into his Majeſty's Preſence, I was yet unfortunate enough to loſe all my Hopes, grounded upon repeated promiſes of Protection and Reward, and, found my ſelf in a moment abandon'd by all, and as if there had been Inchantment in the Caſe, every body ſhunning me, and no body giving me the Reaſon why. Yet after all, there is this further occaſion of Wonder in my unfortunate Circumſtances, that I ſhould be again imploy'd in the ſame ſort of Service, by I know not who; and receiving Money I know not whence, ſhould be almoſt reduced to a willingneſs to have taken Tranſportation for my Reward; and yet am returned again, and forced to give this ſad and extraordinary Account of my Misfortunes and Services.*

But theſe are Riddles I muſt leave to others to unfold: My humble Requeſt is only, that the Honourable Houſe of Commons would be pleaſed to conſider, Whether my Services deſerve Reward and Countenance, or Starving and Diſgrace.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

MEMOIRS.

ALL that paſſed between the D— of *Shr-sb-ry*, Mr. Secretary *V-rn-n*, and my ſelf, make the Body of the following *Memoirs*. And if any of my Letters which I pretend, and will prove to have been delivered, be diſputed, I only deſire the favour to have thoſe Papers of mine produced, which occaſion'd thoſe Anſwers that are under their own hands. I hope Neceſſity will plead my excuſe to thoſe other Perſons of Quality whoſe Names I ſhall be obliged to mention. I will take care to do no body wrong; and ſince after ſo long a time I can get no admiſſion to any of them, they will, I hope, allow me the liberty of ſpeaking Truth.

The Duke of *Norfolk* was the firſt Perſon to whom I communicated any of the Proceedings between the D— of *Shr-sb-ry*, and my ſelf. His Grace receiv'd me with his accuſtomed Goodneſs, but he was often out of Town: So being put off with Excuſes from the Secretaries Office, to near the time of the King's

departure for *Holland*, in the Year 1696. I went to *Kenſington*, and reſolved to ſeek ſome opportunity of ſpeaking to his Majeſty my ſelf. When I came thither, I was inform'd the then Earl of *Monmouth* was in waiting; and to him I addreſs'd my ſelf, tho wholly unknown to him, and only ſpoke to him in general terms. His Lordſhip, as is uſual, was referring me to ſome other; but when I told him in ſhort what I had to ſay related to the Safety of his Majeſty's Perſon and Government, upon that he was pleaſed to tell me, he would inform the King of my Name, and of my Buſineſs. The Earl after ſome time let me know, that he could not procure me acceſs to the King; that I muſt ſee to gain admittance, if my Affair was ſo preſſing, by my Lord *Albemarle* that is now, or by the Cloſet-keeper: but that if I could not, the King had order'd him, if my Buſineſs prov'd of Conſequence, to carry me to Sir *William Trumbull*. I could by no means ſpeak to the King before his departure. Sometime after the ſaid Earl, now Earl of *Peterborough*, having read a ſecond time my *Memoirs* and *Letters*, introduced me to Sir *William Trumbull*; 'twas about the latter end of *May* 1696. At this meeting I ſhew'd Sir *William Trumbull*, then one of his Majeſty's Secretaries of State, my *Letters* and *Minutes*, with the D— of *Shr-sb-ry*'s, and Mr. Secretary *V-rn-n*'s Anſwers

ſwers to them. He much wonder'd that the King was not made acquainted with my Services, himſelf not having heard the leaſt mention of them. My Papers being looſe, I tranſcribed them in a Book, according to the Series of Time, (by the way, my Lord Chancellor did me the honour to read great part of my *Letters* and *Minutes*, before they were tranſcribed in a Book; and they gave him that ſatisfaction, that he wonder'd I was not made known to the King) and did deliver into Sir *W. Trumbull*'s hand, that Book of my Correſpondence with his Gr-ce the D— of *Shr-sb-ry*, together with the Original *Letters* and *Minutes* thereunto belonging. Theſe being the proof of the Truth of my Correſpondence, and undeniable Demonſtration of the reality of my paſt Services, were ſealed up in two parcels, and deliver'd in the preſence of the ſaid Earl. The Intention and Deſign of delivering up the ſaid Original Papers into the Secretary's hand, was not only to prove the truth of my Book, but to ſecure them from any Attempt.

When his Majeſty came from *Flanders*, I then preſt the Earl of *Monmouth*, and Sir *William*, to procure my admittance to the King. It was ſo long before Sir *W. Trumbull* did procure that Honour, that I had often reſolved to lay my *Memoirs* before the *Houſe* of *Commons*. But to my great misfortune I was ever diſſwad-

ed by the Earl of *Monmouth* from ſo doing. At laſt, when juſt deſpairing of ever being admitted to an Audience of his Majeſty, I received this following Letter from Sir *William Trumbull.*

Sunday Night at 12.

SIR,

THE King commands me to ſend you word, that if you will go to my Lord Portland's *to morrow in the Evening, at ſeven of the Clock, he will bring you to ſpeak with the King. I am,*

SIR,

9 Nov. 96. *Your moſt humble Servant,*

Will. Trumbull.

On *Monday*, the next day, in obedience to Command, I went to *Kenſington*, and was introduced into his Majeſty's Preſence by the Earl of *Portland.* I humbly preſented to the King a Book of my Correſpondence, and went away fully ſatisfy'd with the Honour I had had, and the belief that his Majeſty was ſenſible of the Truth and Greatneſs of my Services.

Within two or three days after I attended Sir *W. Trumbull*, to know whether he had yet receiv'd any Commands for me. He then told

told me, before the Earl of *Monmouth*, that his Majeſty was very well ſatisfy'd with the Accounts I had given him, and that it was a very full and early diſcovery of the Plot: That his Majeſty had commanded him to enquire what I moſt liked, Whether to ſerve in the Army, or in any other Imployment? He told me ſome Money would be ordered me for the preſent; but Money being ſcarce at that time, a little muſt ſerve me till more came in. I gave the Secretary anſwer to his Majeſty's Command, that I was willing to ſerve the King in any Character he was pleaſed to appoint. The Secretary was pleaſed to tell me, that my Service in the ſame way for ſome time longer would be acceptable. I reply'd, I was willing to do my endeavours any way that might ſerve his Majeſty; and from that time receiv'd Sir *W. Trumbull*'s Commands, which I executed to the beſt of my Power. Soon after I receiv'd the following Letter from Sir *William Trumbull.*

Monday morning, *Nov.* 16. 1696.

SIR,

YOU *are deſired to go to my Lord* Portland's *Lodgings at* Kenſington *this Evening.*

SIR, *Your moſt humble Servant,*
Will. Trumbull.

In obedience to the foreſaid Order, I went in the Evening to *Kenſington*, and then his Lordſhip was pleaſed to give me fifty *Guineas* roll'd up in a piece of Paper. Sir *William* afterwards was pleaſed to tell me, that Money was ſcarce at that time; but when the *Funds* were ſettled, his Majeſty would reward me well for my paſt Services.

Friday Noon.

SIR,

I Have been very ill ever ſince I ſaw you, but my want of Health ſhall not hinder me from ſpeaking with you, if you will call at my Houſe, either this night at eight of the Clock, or to morrow at the ſame hour. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Will. Trumbull.

My Debts being uneaſy to me, I was forced to confeſs to Sir *W. Trumbull*, I was afraid of being arreſted. He promiſed to conſult with my Lord *Portland* the moſt proper way to get me a Protection. Upon which account I ſome little time after receiv'd this Letter.

*

Monday

Monday Morning.

SIR,

MY *Lord* Portland, *into whoſe hands I put your Paper for a Protection, deſires to ſpeak with you when you can conveniently.*

In the Evening I went to *Kenſington* to wait on my Lord *Portland*, who receiv'd me with his uſual Civility, and told me, I ſhould have a further ſupply of Money in a few days.

On the 10*th* or 11*th* of *January* 1697. I was ſurpriz'd by an Attachment from the Lords, and forc'd to appear in their Houſe. I was altogether ignorant of the Reaſons that induced them to ſeize me. When I was brought to the Bar of their Houſe, I was examined on ſeveral Queſtions relating to the Earl of *Monmouth*, the Dutcheſs of *Norfolk*, and the Lady *Mary Fenwick*, about Affairs that I was no way privy to, and what is more, are yet a Secret to me. I never heard from the ſaid Earl any mention of thoſe Ladies Names, upon any other occaſion, than his Lordſhip's deſiring me to change my Lodgings, leſt the Dutcheſs of *Norfolk* ſhould force me to diſcover my ſelf, and my Correſpondences, ſhe having had ſome Informations of my Intelligence from ſome of her Husband's the Duke of *Norfolk*'s Family; and this was ſome Months before his Lord-

Lordſhip's Controverſy with the ſaid Dutcheſs in that Houſe. But among the many Queſtions that aroſe, my Original Papers which were ſealed up, and left with Sir *William Trumbull*, being brought by him in the ſame form I left them in his hands, and broke open in the *Houſe of Lords*, I could not avoid (being upon Oath) to diſcover a Correſpondence that had paſs'd between a Great Miniſter and my ſelf. That Honourable Houſe cannot but remember, I anſwer'd their Queſtions with all the ſubmiſſion and profound reſpect it was poſſible for me to expreſs in relation to that Noble Peer. I ſaid nothing but what I could not avoid: And I am ſure no reaſonable Man will think me guilty of ſo much folly, as to believe that I had any Deſign to accuſe any Perſon, or that I would deſtroy my blooming Hopes; for under the Circumſtances I then lay, 'twas not my Intereſt to oppoſe in the leaſt the Diſpoſitions of the Court.

After I had been in the *Houſe of Lords*, tho without my conſent or knowledg, I ſoon perceived my unlucky Fate, and was preſently commanded not to appear at Court. I waited on Sir *William Trumbull* to know the Reaſon why I was under Diſpleaſure; deſiring I might juſtify my ſelf, by anſwering any Allegations that might be juſtly laid to my Charge. Sir *William* ſeem'd concern'd, for he

he well knew I had done nothing but what I could not avoid; but he did not direct me how I might be redreſſed. I retired into the Country; and the Winter following when I came to Town, I made my Applications to a new Friend, for my old ones had forſaken me, and lodg'd a Petition in his hands; who commiſerating my Condition, promiſed to ſerve me to the utmoſt of his Power. After a Month's attendance my Friend told me, that my Service would be well accepted, if I would go abroad and tranſmit from thence a weekly Account of what occur'd amongſt the Secret Enemies, who were obliged to withdraw, in purſuance to the *Act* of *Parliament*. I was ſurpriz'd at the Overture, having been ſo long laid aſide, and was very deſirous to know who the Perſon was that would engage my Service; but was aſſured it was a Secret: however if I would undertake the Buſineſs, I ſhould have a monthly Penſion punctually paid me, and a Sum of Money immediately order'd to equip my ſelf in order to my Voyage; and that he would ſtand engag'd for the due Remittance and monthly Penſion agreed on, which was to commence from the time I went from *England*. In my Circumſtances I would have engag'd upon worſe Terms for an *Eaſt-India* Voyage, being promiſed, for my further encouragement, that I ſhould be rewarded for my former Services. Which made me

hope

hope I was to be remember'd abroad, when forgot at home. On *January* 30. 169$\frac{7}{8}$. I receiv'd fifty Pounds, and a little time after the like Sum. When I had prepared what was neceſſary for my Voyage, I receiv'd a Paſs for my further Security. After ſome little time my ill Fate purſued me beyond the Seas, and I receiv'd only flattering Letters, which fed me with Hopes inſtead of Supplies. But my Friend was too ſincere to deceive me longer than he was deceived; and I ſoon received this mortifying Letter from him, which began thus; *The incloſed declares your Doom*, &c. The other runs in this Stile, *I have receiv'd yours of the 18th, the 22d, and 25th, and have ſhew'd them to your Parents. I have been by them waſhed with Holy Water, and kept on the Rack from day to day; for daily Hope, Expectation and Fear is ſo to me.* And ſo concludes in a ſorrowful manner, for having engag'd upon thoſe Terms upon which I went abroad, confeſſing that he had been deceiv'd and abuſed by thoſe Perſons who authorized him to engage my Service; therefore deſired me to make a ſpeedy return into *England.*

The Reader may be ſurpriz'd at this Paſſage, and wonder who thoſe Perſons were that ſo barbarouſly uſed my Friend and me. I can aſſure him that is a Secret my Friend has not yet revealed. What my Thoughts are on the matter, and the Deſign of ſending me out

out of *England*, I will keep to my ſelf, leſt by divulging of them I may miſtake. According to the Advice I receiv'd from my Friend, I immediately return'd into *England*, and waited on the Gentleman from whom I had the Paſs, and the hundred Pounds, to know the Reaſons why I was ſo uſed, and who the Perſons were that thus waver'd in their Reſolutions. He told me that was a Secret he muſt keep, and very much excuſed himſelf for having engag'd me in ſo much trouble and danger. This was all the Satisfaction I had from him, and all the Satisfaction I can give to others.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS
OF
Secret Service.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

THAT upon conſideration of the *Deſigns* which are forming againſt the Government, and the *Honour* I have had to ſerve their Majeſties, I cannot but make known to your Gr-ce what hath come to my knowledg concerning the ſaid *Deſigns*: As alſo how I may be made capable to ſerve their Majeſties, by giving to your Gr--ce a *conſtant* Intelligence of what *Inſtructions* are at any time hereafter ſent from abroad, which are to be communicated to the *Jacobite* Party here, by which they are to take their Meaſures.

Provided it may not be *known* from whom the Intelligence comes, and not to make uſe of me at any time as an *Evidence*; to have liberty to ſpeak *freely*, without any hazard or danger to my ſelf, and to have a *Proviſion* made for me. This muſt be done with the greateſt

greateſt *ſecrecy*, by reaſon I am generally *known*, and the Party have their *Spies* in all places to give them notice. My coming to Town muſt likewiſe be *private*. If there is any thing in this Letter that is improper or offenſive, I do moſt humbly beg pardon, and I aſſure your Gr-ce it is not *knowingly*, or for want of *Zeal* for their Majeſties Service; for I will always be ready to *obey* your Gr-ce's *Commands* in any thing, wherein I may ſhew my ſelf to be their Majeſties moſt *dutiful* and *loyal* Subject. Your Gr-ce's generous *Diſpoſition*, and great *Care* for the Good and Welfare of the Government, and place of great Truſt, have obliged me to apply my ſelf to your Gr-ce, who am, in all humility,

Nov. *the* , 1694. Your Gr-ce's

Moſt, *&c.*

The Bearer is my Servant, and one I can truſt to bring any Meſſage to me that your Gr-ce pleaſeth.

The Anſwer to this Letter, was to make my ſelf known to the D— by ſome Friend, or further to explain my ſelf by Letter.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

IN obedience to your Gr-ce's Command, of making my ſelf known by ſome Perſon, or further explaining my ſelf by Letter; I once more preſume to write, and moſt humbly beg pardon for my laſt, for not having made my ſelf known before by a Friend. I hope it will be excuſed, ſince it proceeded wholly from my Zeal for their Majeſties Service, and from the fear I was in, that what I can do, (which I doubt not but will be an acceptable Service) and may hereafter be made capable of doing, might take Air by being communicated to a third, and ſo be a means to prevent the Service I hope to compleat to ſatisfaction.

As to my ſelf, I am of the *Inner-Temple*, and have been *Comptroler* of that Society. I had the Command of an Independent Company in *Windſor-Caſtle*, and commanded there all the time of his Majeſties being at *Windſor* when he firſt came into *England*. Upon the Order of disbanding Independent Companies, I receiv'd a Commiſſion in the Duke of *Norfolk*'s Regiment, and I rais'd a Company, (the Commiſſion was ſigned by your Gr-ce.) Upon the Army's going to *Ireland*, ſeveral Officers in the Duke's, and in other Regiments, were diſmiſs'd, and I was one of the ſaid Officers; the Reaſon I know not, except for having been a Captain

in the late King's time. The Duke was diſſatisfy'd at it, I having put my ſelf to a great expence for that Expedition; and ever ſince I have follow'd my own Concerns.

By what means I have come to the knowledg of the Affairs of the *Diſcontented* Party, and how I may be ſerviceable for the future, (being confident no Orders or Directions from abroad can eſcape my knowledg, if I apply my ſelf to it) the Particulars are too tedious to trouble your Gr-ce with in a Letter, and I am already fearful that I have too much treſpaſs'd upon your Gr-ce's Patience.

I am now in Town, but keep my ſelf private; and I am ready to attend your Gr-ce's Commands, to do the utmoſt of my power for their Majeſties Service. I once more moſt humbly beg that my Name may not be *known*, or made uſe of as an *Evidence*; and that I may ſpeak *freely* without damage to my ſelf. As to a *Proviſion* I mentioned in my laſt, I will wholly rely on your Gr-ce's *Favour* and *Recommendation* to the King, as your Gr-ce ſhall judg of my Service. Who am (though unknown)

Your Gr-ce's

Nov. 29. 94.

moſt, *&c.*

If it is your Gr-ce's Pleaſure that I ſhould attend, I beg it may not be at the Office.

The

The Anſwer was, That I ſhould attend the D— at his own Houſe on *Sunday*, being the 2*d* day of *December* 1694.

The Minutes of the ſecond of December 1694. *with his Gr-ce the D— of* S——.

1. After my being admitted to his Gr-ce's Preſence, I gave him an Account of my being diſmiſs'd the King's Service; that after this Application was made to me (having been a Captain in the late King's time) to enter into his Intereſt; which I ſeemingly did, the better to enable my ſelf to ſerve their preſent Majeſties: That I gave out to the Party, that I look'd upon my ſelf injur'd by being diſmiſs'd the King's Service without cauſe: That being Nephew to Sir *William Parkyns*, I had great Credit with the Party, and had always an Account from Sir *William*, and the Party, of the late King's Intentions; and that I would communicate them from time to time to his Gr-ce.

2. That the late King intended to invade *England* as the laſt Spring; but that a Difference happen'd between the *Jacobites* here, which aroſe upon the occaſion of the laſt *Declaration*, by which the *Papiſts* were put out of hopes of Command, in caſe the late King ſhould

be reſtor'd. That the ſaid *Declaration* was obtain'd by a Party or Faction here call'd *Compounders*, who promiſed, upon the granting that *Declaration*, to reſtore the late King in a very ſhort time. That the late King was very much averſe to the ſigning it; that it was drawn here in *England*, and carried over by the Lord *Middleton*, who declared that upon the late King's laying aſide the Lord *Melford*, and his conſenting to the *Declaration*, the *Compounders* would perform their Promiſe. That the *Fr-ch* K. was wrought upon by the Intereſt the *Compounders* made with one of his Secretaries (who was a publick Enemy to the Lord *Melford*, and to his way of proceeding) to perſwade the late King to ſign that *Declaration*, it being againſt the late King's Inclination to do it.

3. That the *Compounders* made ſeveral Terms with the late King; and ſome of them were to be made *Truſtees*, as they ſtil'd themſelves, of the Nation, for the late King's performance of what he promiſed in that *Declaration*.

4. That upon this the *Jacobites* divided into Factions, the one ſtiled *Compounders*; the other Party, which are topping high-fliers, join'd with the Papiſts to have the late King reſtored without Terms, with Sword in hand, theſe are ſtil'd *Melfordians*.

5. That

5. That upon the *Compounders* failure of Promiſe, as to the time of reſtoring the late King, the late King took himſelf to be acquitted from ſtanding to that *Declaration* compriſed by them, and now doth hearken to the *Melfordians*; and tho *Melford* is publickly laid aſide, yet he ſtill acts behind the Curtain, and nothing is valuable unleſs recommended firſt by him: And *Middleton* is but a colourable Secretary.

6. That this laſt Spring great Application was made to the late King to come over, who accordingly gave the *Melfordian* Faction great hopes. That the *Compounding* Party getting knowledg of it, labour'd to prevent it, (by reaſon their Meaſures were not fully concerted) and therefore ſent to the Fr-ch K. to let him know, that it would be in vain to do it that Spring, by reaſon the Fleet here was in ſuch a readineſs, as that they could fit out Fifty eight Men of War in a Fortnight's time. So that Deſign went off, with a Promiſe to ſtir the Year after.

7. That when *Melford* ſeem'd to leave all Buſineſs, and to retire from the Court at St. *Germains*, every one complemented and waited on him to his Coach, except my Lord *Griffin* and *David Lloyd*, they being great *Compounders*, and of *Middleton*'s Faction.

8. That Sir *James Montgomery* was of the *Compounding* Party, and that they help'd him to make his eſcape; he being a timorous Man, they were fearful of his ſqueeking.

Giving this account of Affairs, and offering to his Gr-ce further ſatisfaction of my Inclination to ſerve their Majeſties, I did then propoſe to get a Recommendation from his Grace the Duke of *Norfolk*. His Gr-ce was pleaſed to tell me, that I needed not *trouble* the Duke, and that he was well *ſatisfy'd* with me: And at that time employ'd me to enquire what a Character one Captain *S-nd-rſ-n*, Maſter of the King's Yacht, had in the Party, which I did not then know, but did enquire, and took his Name in writing.

I then told his Gr-ce, that the Party were very active in providing Arms; and that tho the *Lancaſhire* Gentlemen were well *got off* of their matter, yet I believ'd they were *provided*. After this I deſired liberty to do and act as I found expedient, that I might the better diſcover the Intentions of the King's Enemies; which was *granted* me, and a *Promiſe* made that I ſhould be *ſupported*, and that his Gr-ce would *acquaint* the King concerning me. I had liberty to write, and the D— alſo took a Note how to direct Letters to me.

It is to be obſerved, that I always ſent my Letters by one who alſo brought back the D—— Letters to me.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

WHEN I had the honour to wait on your Gr-ce, you order'd me to write, and gave me leave to learn all that was poſſible of the Deſigns of their Majeſties Enemies, and to give information thereof, as they came to my knowledg. In obedience to Command, I will let nothing of Conſequence paſs that may be of uſe. As the ready compliance of the *Parliament* with his Majeſty's Demands, dejects the *Jacobites*, ſo it puts them the more upon expoſing the Government in relation to the late Affair in *Lancaſhire*, thinking thereby to cover their Intentions, and make it appear, as much as poſſible, that tho they cannot take the Oaths to the Government, yet they do not make any Preparations, but live quietly and unconcerned: When at the ſame time I am aſſured, that they provide Arms as faſt as they can conveniently, without being taken notice of, and that there are ſeveral Perſons imploy'd to that intent.

Your Gr-ce's Promiſe, that I ſhall not be *known* or made uſe of as an *Evidence*, and be *provided* for, makes me the more induſtrious to find out at this juncture ſomething of their

Preparations, which I doubt not but to effect in a ſhort time; but I muſt take a Journey before I can bring it about, having a Project, by which I hope not to miſs of my Deſign, of finding out where Arms are conceal'd. It cannot be expected I ſhould be able to find out every one's Arms; to make a diſcovery from one of Note, will be a ſufficient Demonſtration that the reſt of the *Faction* are not unprovided.

This I am certain of, that for a *Buſineſs* of this *nature* to be diſcovered during the Seſſion of *Parliament*, will be a thorow *check* to all the *Deſigns* of the *Jacobites* for this Year, and I hope for ever; for by ſuch a Diſcovery his Majeſty may obtain what Act he pleaſeth for his further ſecurity; and then the *Compounding* Party will be as zealous as any, that they may not be queſtion'd. Tho I ſhall act this Affair as if from the Confeſſion of others, yet I fear the Party will be jealous of me; and if they ſhould be ſo, I muſt expect no more Promiſes of great Preferment from them, which has been intimated that I ſhould have, as the command of a Regiment. But I hope, after the compleating ſuch a Service, his Majeſty will not let me be *expoſed* to the contempt of his *Enemies*, by being left *unprovided* for.

I have put my ſelf to a conſiderable Expence in coming to Town, and to fit my ſelf to appear in Buſineſs; and I ſhall be at a much

* greater

greater in corresponding, and compleating this matter; and I must send for one to *Town* through whom I must act my part, but it must be unknown to him that I am upon any such Design. Therefore I do humbly beg your Gr-ce's Answer to this. I shall be with Dr. *O*—— within a day or two; and perhaps I may learn something of Capt. *S-nd-rs-n*. There shall not be any Money laid out by me, but what shall be very much for their Majesties Service, that I may deserve the Character of being

Your Gr-ce's most, *&c.*

Dec. 11. 1694.

A Copy of the D—— *of* S—— *Letter, of his own hand-writing, in answer to the foresaid Letter.*

'YOU may depend upon it, *Sir*, if you 'can do the Government Service, not 'only *your Expences shall be defray'd*, but your 'self *well rewarded and settled for the future.* 'Such a Discovery as you mention would be '*of great Service.*

'I think you had best appear here as seldom 'as can be; and what you have to communi-'cate will be better done by writing, unless 'upon some extraordinary occasion.

Dec. 11. 94. *May*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

AS your *Reception* gave Vigour and Life to my undertaking this Service, ſo your Gr-ce's Letter doth *abſolutely* confirm me; for what can I deſire more, than to be under your Gr-ce's Care and Protection? By the accompliſhing the Diſcovery I mention'd in my laſt, I muſt of neceſſity create a great ſuſpicion of my ſelf, and conſequently a great many Enemies. I have learned the Perſons Names employ'd in *buying* up of Arms, and *ſending* them into the Country; and I have drawn *Interrogatories* to examine them apart, that it may put them in more conſternation. I do therein uſe the Names of a Perſon or two penſion'd from *France*, of whom the Party have had a jealouſy of late as *Informers*. This method I hope will abſolutely cover me from being *known*, and ſo put them into ſuch a *diſtraction*, that they ſhall not venture to truſt one another hereafter, and conſequently wholly confound their Deſigns.

As the diviſion into Parties hath already created in the Fr-ch K. a ſlender opinion of the Power of the *Jacobites* here, ſo the diſcovery of Arms from a Perſon of Note, will put him out of hopes of any Inſurrection here, which he very much drives at, for he would have

have the *Jacobites* do the work themſelves: the Party have almoſt *tired* his patience; for I heard a Perſon of great Intelligence declare, that the Fr-ch K. ſhould ſay of his Majeſty, that ſo long as he managed and kept his Parliament as he now does, there was but little hopes; and that his Majeſty did more with his Parliament than any of the former Kings could ever do.

I do aſſure your Gr-ce, that I ſhall be able in a ſhort time to *compleat* the diſcovery of the Arms; but I muſt firſt take a conſiderable Journey to that intent, to learn the certain place where they lie concealed, which I cannot fail of; and upon my notice thereof, the Perſons employ'd in buying up the Arms, muſt be taken up, that it may look as a Diſcovery from *them*. The manner and method how to deal with them, I have drawn up to preſent to your Gr-ce; and from the Country I will ſend Inſtructions for the Perſons that are to come and ſeize the Arms.

If it is your Gr-ce's pleaſure to have this diſpatch'd, I will attend your Gr-ce in order to the execution of it, which I am certain of performing. I beg your Gr-ce will order me ſome Money, by reaſon I have not ſufficient by me for the management of this Affair, and the Journey. It will

will be leaſt ſuſpected upon taking a Journey againſt *Chriſtmaſs*. I am

Decemb. 15. 1694. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

A Copy of the D—— of S—— *Letter, in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letter, (being of his own hand-writing.)*

SIR,

'THO I ſhall be willing to give all *reaſonable encouragement* to your Endeavours; yet it being the King's Money I am to diſpoſe of, I cannot think my ſelf diſcharged, if I advance any Money before I ſee ſome Service performed.

Dec. 15. 94.

Upon receit of the D—— Letter I went to wait on his Gr-ce, but was told he was indiſpoſed.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

THE fear I am in that my laſt Letter was diſpleaſing, hath ſo far affected me, that I can't be eaſy till I have obtain'd your pardon. I do aſſure your Gr-ce, that upon your intimating that ſuch a Diſcovery would be eſteemed a *Service*, and at this juncture be moſt *acceptable*; I have labour'd with all the Induſtry that's poſſible to compleat it, and doubt not but to give your Gr-ce ſuch ſatisfaction, that it will appear I have in a manner perform'd my Promiſe. This I may venture to affirm, by reaſon I have obtained the Perſons Names concerned in buying the Arms, and ſending them into the Country, and the Place where ſent to. I have likewiſe drawn *Interrogatories* to examine them upon, which will much amaze the whole Party, and I hope will be a means to deſtroy all their Deſigns. I underſtand that at this Place there are very fine Arms for a Troop, by which it will appear that the Party are not ſo *unprovided* as they *pretend*. And had there been as *good* an Intelligence in *Lancaſhire*, I doubt not but the *like* would have appeared.

I would not have preſumed to ask Money for a Journey, if I was not ſure to find out the place in the Houſe where the Arms are concealed, being very well acquainted at, and with

with the place. I cannot take any pleaſure in a Journey this Seaſon, but in the aſſurance of perfecting the Service I have begun, that thereby I may fully demonſtrate my ſelf to be their Majeſties moſt loyal Subject, and

Decemb. 18. 1694. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

I am extreamly troubled for your Gr-ce's Indiſpoſition, when I was to wait on you; I am ready to attend your Gr-ce's Pleaſure.

My Servant brought in anſwer to the Letter, that the D—— deſired the Papers.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

ACcording to command, I have ſent the *Interrogatories*, to examine the Perſons that were employ'd in buying the Arms, if you think convenient to take them up: And full Inſtructions for the ſeizing the Arms, which muſt be done out of hand. In humble ſubmiſſion to your Gr-ce's Judgment, I do think it will be convenient to order a Letter to Sir *Richard Newdigate* (a Juſtice of Peace within a mile of the place, a zealous Man for the Government, and one that loves to be em-

employ'd) to be aſſiſting, that an exact account of the number of the Arms be returned, that they be not imbezel'd by the Officer who is imploy'd; and that this be done without any noiſe, or any thing relating to the Houſe abuſed. The want of uſing this Conduct, made a great clamour in *Lancaſhire*, where they might have had Arms if the like care had been taken. I likewiſe think it may not be amiſs, that the Perſons employ'd to ſeize the Arms, may not open their Inſtructions until they come to Sir *Richard Newdigate*, and then not to be publiſhed until the Arms are ſeized: Affairs of this kind are often brought to nothing by taking air.

I hope your Gr-ce will not think the leſs of my Service, for being expeditious in it; this I am certain of, that tho this Affair hath been tranſacted with the greateſt privacy, yet it will very much ſtick upon me, the Perſon being my Relation where the Arms are. I think I may venture to affirm, that it will be the *greateſt Blow* the Party has yet receiv'd. But by my Service in this, I muſt loſe all my Pretenſions with the Faction, and create to my ſelf many Enemies: Which I ſhall not value, ſince your Gr-ce has been pleaſed to expreſs ſome Care for me. I am wiſhing your Gr-ce health,

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Dec. 23. 1694.

The

The Bearer ſhall attend your Gr-ce to morrow in the After-noon, to know whether there needs any further directions from me in the Buſineſs.

Interrogatories to examine Capt. Sc-dm-re *and Mr.* St-ples.

CAptain *Sc-dm-re* was a Lieutenant in the Guards, and Mr. *John St-ples* is of the *Middle Temple* (they are Companions.) Captain *Sc-dm-re* is to be found at the *Rain-bow Coffee-houſe*; and Mr. *St-ples* at his Chamber in the *Middle Temple*.

To interrogate them.

To be intimated as if the Tradeſmen will appear to juſtify their buying theſe Arms.

1. What they did with the Arms, *(viz.)* Swords bought of a Man in *Drury-lane*, and other Sword-Cutlers, Piſtols and Carbines of *Taylor*, and at Brokers Shops? How, and where diſpoſed of? to what uſe they were bought? and whether they have yet received the Arms order'd to be made, and gather'd up by Brokers?

2. Whe-

2. Whether they are not daily with Capt. *Chernock*, alias *Robinſon*, one of Colonel *Parker*'s Captains? and at the Cabals at Taverns with Capt. *Porter*, *Goodman*, *Chernock*, &c.

There is a Warrant now out againſt Chernock.

3. Whether they are not acquainted with one Captain *St-vly*, alias *Wray? He was a Captain in* Ireland, *and one employ'd from* Fr-ce *to write News, and give an account of Affairs here: this Perſon they ſuſpect to be an Informer; his Name muſt be much uſed, which will deſtroy his Intelligencing.*

It may be of uſe to ſearch *St-ples* Chamber; theſe two Perſons being converſant in ſeveral Companies, will put their Party into a great Conſternation.

It will not be convenient to take up theſe Perſons, until the time is fixed to ſend for the Arms; and being immediately examined then, it will look as a Diſcovery from them: Which I am ſure will put the Party into a great confuſion, and abſolutely deſtroy their Deſigns. Theſe two being neceſſitous Men, and the Faction jealous, it will make them

conclude, that the Arms were diſcover'd by their Confeſſion. They muſt be kept apart, and not admitted to write for ſome days, which will the more amuſe the Party.

The Inſtructions for the ſeizing the Arms was not ſent to his Gr-ce until the 25*th* of *Decemb.* 1694.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

NOW I have fully done my part in compleating the Diſcovery I promiſed, by learning the certain place where the Arms are carried to, and the ſecret places in the Houſe where concealed. I have alſo drawn ſuch full Inſtructions for the Perſon whom your Gr-ce ſhall order to ſeize them, that there can be no miſcarriage, if done in time: There is only one Servant in the Houſe. This I am ſure will be a demonſtration, that the Faction are not, as they give out, *unprovided:* It may not be amiſs to look to the *Gun-Smiths* and *Sword-Cutlers* hereafter. The Party do all that is poſſible to ſtifle their Actions from being diſcover'd, and would perſwade the World, that tho they are *Jacobites*, yet they do not make the leaſt preparation to diſturb the Government, but live quietly and unconcern'd. This I preſume will be the ſevereſt Check they have receiv'd, by reaſon it is a Demonſtration to the

the contrary. I do humbly beg your Gr-ce's Pardon for ſo often troubling of you, and hope it will be imputed to my Zeal for their Majeſties Service, and the ambition I have to be intitled

Your Gr-ce's

Decemb. 25.
1694. moſt, *&c.*

To go to *Marſton Jabett* within five miles of *Coventry*, and two of *Nun-Eaton* (a Market Town) to Sir *William Parkyns*'s Houſe; there is only one Servant there.

To ſearch every Room in the Houſe, but particularly two Garrets over the two Rooms, which you are to go up to by a ſtair-caſe in the Hall; and when you are in the Garret, to take notice of a ſtack of Chimnies that comes up into the firſt Garret of the two you come into. Between the ſaid ſtack of Chimnies and the Tiles there is a very little ſpace; if fill'd up with Tiles or Bricks, to remove them; if not ſo fill'd up, to lie down on the Floor and get ſome Inſtrument and lift up the Boards there; for between the Tunnels of the Chimnies and the Tiles is a Trap-door that goes down between the two Walls that part the Rooms underneath, and therein you will find the Arms.

If not all there, then to ſearch a great plaiſter Room, and a Garner therein, over the Kitchin, and in the Hay in the Barns; and in one of the two Rooms to remove a great Preſs, if ſet before a Cloſet-door in the ſaid Room, and the Boxes and Cheſts in both thoſe, or any other Rooms.

If you find your Expectation anſwered between the Tunnels of the Chimnies in the Garret, by ſeeing or feeling Deal-boxes, then to ceaſe to ſearch further for that time; but leave a Guard at the place, and then ſearch in other places: After ſo doing, then to ſearch the ſame place over again, and there you will find the Arms, which will look as if no intimation had been given. To ſearch the Ovens in the Kitchin, and look up every Chimny. In the Grounds there are eight or ten ſizeable Horſes: One fine Furniture in a Deal-box in one of the aforeſaid Rooms.

A Copy of the D— of S—— Letter of his own writing, in anſwer to the Letter with the Inſtructions.

'I Deſire to know what number of Arms 'there are in the Houſe; and if you have 'good grounds to believe theſe are there; 'likewiſe whether the Gentleman be a Papiſt, 'a *Nonjuror*, or what he is.

Dec. 27, 94.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Have been ſeemingly a *Jacobite*, but am really the contrary, otherwiſe I could never have div'd into their Secrets, and made any diſcovery of their Deſigns: I wiſh I was as fully aſſured where the reſt of the Party's Arms are concealed, as I am of theſe which I have mention'd to your Gr-ce. As to the Number, there are Carbines, Piſtols and Swords, ſufficient for the equipping a Troop; and they are very fine Arms, and at the Houſe I have mention'd I am moſt certain: I could wiſh I was as ſure to command a Troop for his Majeſty's Service. It's impoſſible there can be any diſappointment if ſpeedily ſeized, and my Inſtructions exactly obſerved. As I have already obſerved, it will plainly appear by this

Diſcovery, that the Party are not unprovided, the Perſon at whoſe Houſe they are being too wiſe to provide alone. I would not, upon any account in the World, impoſe upon your Gr-ce a belief of an Uncertainty, the Conſequence of which muſt be my Ruin on both ſides, by pretending to give an Intelligence of things which are doubtful.

I could wiſh I were to be excuſed from giving a Character of the Perſon, it being not proper for me to do it, being too nearly related. He is no Papiſt, but I fear too much engag'd in their Intereſt, As to his being a *Non-juror* I do not know: He doth not go to Church, and refuſes to act as a Juſtice of the Peace in his Country, and is under Indictments for not acting. He was near twenty Years a Six Clerk in *Chancery*, and ſold his Place ſince this Government for 6500 *l.* There are many of Quality of his Party, and no Man is in greater favour with the late King, and more likely to be great than himſelf if there ſhould be a Change. I have had a great conflict within my ſelf (in relation to this Affair ſince I have diſcovered theſe Arms) between my Affection to my Relation, and my Duty to my King and Country. The horror and deſtruction that will attend a Revolution, and my Duty to my King and Country have prevail'd over me. I receiv'd your Gr-ce's Letter, and had obey'd your Commands yeſterday, but the

trouble and concern I was in, for which every Loyal Subject and lover of his Country ought to * lament, made me uncapable of writing ſooner.

* *The Queen's dying.*

The great joy the Enemies of the Government have conceiv'd, for what every true *Engliſh* Man ought greatly to be concerned, cannot better be fruſtrated, than by a Diſcovery at this time, and while the Parliament are vigorous in their Zeal and Care for his Majeſty's Safety. I am

Dec. 30. 1694. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

IN obedience to command, I ſent an Anſwer to your Gr-ce on *Saturday*, and I hope by this, the Perſons are gone to ſeize the Arms; I am certain they are at the place: and upon the beſt grounds a Man ought to believe the truth of things, I am farther aſſured, that they cannot be removed but that I ſhall have a knowledg of it. The Enemies of the Government are in great hopes that his Majeſty will not go for *Flanders*, and hope from thence that it will cauſe the *Confederates* to take other meaſures.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce; I have been, and am at a *great Expence* in Town, for my Correſpondence and keeping Company is a great

charge: if I was *furniſhed* with *Money*, nothing of *moment* could ſlip my knowledg, by reaſon I have *acceſs* to moſt of the *intelligent* Companies, and I am ſure it will be of great uſe; then no Deſign can be form'd but what I can give *timely* notice of, nor any Perſon to be enquired of but I can know his *Character*.

If I have been ſhorter in my Intelligence than was expected, it hath been only for want of Money to ſupport the Expence, and not of ſufficient acquaintance to procure it. If I had a *certain* allowance, I could do the King *great* Service, and I am *ſure* it would anſwer the end. I hope your Gr-ce will pardon this trouble, and I do aſſure your Gr-ce no one ſhall be more active to ſerve the Government than my ſelf, that thereby I may demonſtrate my ſelf to be

Jan. 3. 94. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

His Gr-ce was not pleaſed to anſwer my Letters until the 2*d of* February.

*

February

February the 2*d* 169⅘.

'I Have here incloſed ſent you a Bill of 'twenty Pounds, payable upon Mr. *Ri-'chard Peirſon* Goldſmith, within *Temple-bar*; 'I have directed him to pay it at ſight. I am 'juſt going into the Country, and *deſire you 'will upon my account, put your ſelf to no fur-'ther charge or trouble.*

My Lord D-ke;

UPON the firſt peruſal of your Gr-ce's Letter I was *amaz'd*, that my bringing to *perfection* a *Service*, once thought *great* and *acceptable*, for which I was *to be rewarded and ſettled for the future*, ſhould be now thought of no *value*. This I am ſure of, that ſuch a *Diſcovery* would have demonſtrated the truth of the Party's *Preparations*, and that the *Lancaſhire* Gentlemen were not unprovided; which would have taken off the Blemiſh the State lay under, partly by too quick an apprehenſion. On that conſideration, and my regard for the Publick, I have been the more induſtrious.

But upon further thoughts of your Gr-ce's Letter, I do find my ſelf obliged to your Gr-ce for the ſecrecy of my Name and Service, and for that reaſon think my ſelf to be juſtly in your

your Gr-ce's debt, and that my Duty to the Government obliges me to aſſert and make appear what I did promiſe, and am ſtill capable of doing. Nothing can give me a greater trouble than your Gr-ce's Indiſpoſition, and that I may not apply my ſelf to your Gr-ce, to perfect the Work your Gr-ce hath ſo well encourag'd by Promiſes. I will endeavour to do it to perfection, being by Inclination as well as Duty oblig'd. I am, and do own my ſelf

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Febr. 3. 94.

It is to be obſerv'd, that I interpreted his Gr-ce's diſmiſſive Letter only to his Indiſpoſition: I waited his Gr-ce's Recovery, and then I continued my Correſpondence, and concluded, that the Arms were to lie only until his return.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

BEING obliged to your Gr-ce, I do, as in Duty bound, congratulate your Gr-ce's recovery of your Health: And I do aſſure your Gr-ce, that the Secrecy I have met with will be always acknowledg'd by me.

Our Enemies are now very brisk, and I am *certain*, if I am *commanded*, that no Deſign can be *form'd* but what I can give *timely* notice

tice of. I am daily in many of their Clubs; the Reaſons the Party have for their Hopes, I will give your Gr-ce when I am order'd to wait on you. I am inform'd that the Naval ſtrength at *Breſt*, and parts adjacent, do conſiſt of 55 Ships from 40 to 80 Guns. I am in all humility,

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

March 31. 95.

After this Letter I waited on the D— of *S*— at his Houſe to beg his Pardon, if I had done any thing which gave offence; but his Gr-ce was pleaſed to tell me, that I was not under his diſpleaſure. I then acquainted him that the *Male-contents* were very active. Upon which his Gr-ce reply'd, that when I had any thing material to communicate, I ſhould let him know it. I received a *Complement*, but no *Support*, and then begg'd that he would be pleaſed to *recommend* me to the King; which his Gr-ce *promiſed* to do, and I continued my Correſpondence.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

IT is now generally believ'd by the *Faction*, that there will be a *Revolution*. They ſay that a *Common-Wealth* Government is now on foot, and that the D— of *L*—*d*'s being at this

this time profecuted, is only with deſign to remove him from the King, in order to bring forward their Deſigns; and that Admiral *R*— is ſent for to command on that account. They further pretend, that ſuch a Government will now be the ſecurer for the two K--s Pretenſions, the one ſtriving to hinder the other's regaining the Kingdom. The *Jacobites* are well inclined to ſuch a Government, and to ſerve in it, in order to bring in K. *J.* Great endeavours will be uſed this Year for his Return, and Wagers are offer'd upon it. The general Pardon is not look'd upon to have paſſed in favour or kindneſs to the *Male-contents*, but as they ſay, the end of it was to qualify the Lord *S-nd-rl-d* to act *publickly* in the Government, as he hath done a great while in *private*. I muſt needs add, they are big with Expectation, and ready for all occaſions; very active, and almoſt arriv'd to the height to attempt any thing, being generally provided: I doubt not but to be able to give timely notice to prevent any Deſign of conſequence. At St. *Germains* the Court is ſtill very much divided, and diſtinguiſhed by the Names of *Melfordians* and *Middletonians*, and the keeping them ſo *divided* here, will be of *great* ſervice.

My L— D—, I moſt humbly beg the continuation of your Gr-ce's Favour, and aſſure your

your Gr-ce that there ſhall be nothing wanting in me to merit your eſteem, it being my higheſt ambition to be ſtiled

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

May 4. 1695.

May it pleaſe your Exc-ll—;

AS I obſerved in my laſt, the Party are now in great hopes that there will be a ſpeedy change of the Scene. They ſay that an Attempt will be made to land this Summer; there is one in Town that does aſſure them of it, and another came on *Friday* laſt, who is to return very ſpeedily with an Account of Affairs here. They pretend that the Privateers will be order'd to be call'd in to make up the Fleet, and that Veſſels are ready to tranſport a ſufficient Force over; and that ſeveral thouſand Men lie near the Coaſt in readineſs to be tranſported. The *Malecontents* repreſent, that the whole Kingdom is well diſpoſed, and that here is not a Force powerful enough for an oppoſition; concluding, that if they are not aſſiſted this Summer, they ſhall never have ſo good an opportunity again.

On *Friday* I was walking with one Captain *Burroughs* in the *Temple*, when one Mr. *Green*

Green was taken up by Mr. *Allen*. It amazed ſeveral of them; and the Captain that was with me went immediately off, much concern'd. This Mr. *Green*, as I am inform'd, was exchanged from the *Savoy* Priſon as a Military Man, but never was one. He was formerly a Clerk to Judg *Allibone*, and ſince to the Lord *Melford*; they ſay he has been over about ſix months. Mr. *Ed—n* of the *Exchequer*-Office, where he was taken, is his great Acquaintance. Captain *Burroughs* and Capt. *Stowe* are not ignorant of Affairs. The Party are more than ordinary buſy at this time to expoſe the Government in their Pamphlets; I have here incloſed ſent one, and there are a great many more publiſhed.

Your Exc-ll— was pleaſed to let me know by your Gentleman that I ſhould hear from you; but having ſince received no Commands, it makes me fearful that I am under Diſpleaſure. The apprehenſion of it is to me a great trouble, it having always been my ambition to be accounted worthy your Exc-ll— Favour and Protection. I do moſt humbly beg the liberty to pay my Duty to you; and that your Exc-ll— will be pleaſed to remember me.

I have not been ſparing in my Expences to ſerve the Government; and I hope your Exc-ll— will be pleaſed to order me ſome Money,

Money, which I will receive with great thankfulneſs, and willingly diſpoſe of it for the Service of his Majeſty. I am

Your Exc-ll— moſt, *&c.*

May 27. 1695.

It is to be obſerved, that the Letters of the 4*th and* 27*th of* May, 1695. *were written when the Cabals were on foot that Summer to ſend Mr.* Chernock *into* France.

The Letters of June 95. *which concern the* Dog-*Tavern Riot are loſt.*

Being wearied and tired out with long attendance, I retir'd into the Country, from whence I writ the following Letter.

The Letter from Highdown-houſe *in* Herefordſhire, Sept. 3. 1695.

May it pleaſe your Exc-ll—;

THE King's Friends are very joyful for the Surrender of *Namur* and the *Caſtle*, but the other Party as much caſt down, having been aſſured of its relief. This hath given a great check to them, who now believe that

that the Country will the more freely part with their Money for the continuance of the War, ſince his Majeſty's Arms have had ſo good ſucceſs.

I can aſſure your Exc-ll— that great Application is making to diſpoſe the Officers of the Army to the late King's Intereſt when occaſion ſerves: For a Gentleman came to me and did aſſure me, that there is a Perſon in Town who is inveſted with full Power to treat with Perſons, and particularly Officers of the Army, to perſwade them to their ſide, upon theſe Conditions, That whenever it ſhall happen that the late King ſhall land here, upon their aſſurance and engagement of their going in to him, they ſhall be continued in their Commands; and for their further Security to have new Commiſſions delivered to them. And if any of them, as a Colonel or Captain, can engage their Regiments or Companies to do the like, they ſhall have, over and above their Commiſſions, ſuch a Reward in Money as the Officer and the Party ſo authorized to treat ſhall agree upon. And that the Perſons ſo diſpoſed to treat, ſhall ſee the Inſtructions and Authority by which this Perſon acts for their further Satisfaction. This ſame Gentleman further told me, that they had engag'd a Colonel to their Intereſt; and that the Colonel before he was fully ſatisfied, did deſire that a Perſon might be ſent to the late King

to

to receive a further confirmation from his own hand. And upon agreement, a Friend of the Colonel's naming was ſent to K. *James*, who brought over from the late King the farther ſatisfaction which was deſired by the ſaid Colonel.

The ſaid Perſon deſired me, being acquainted with Military Men, that when I could meet with any Officers who were well diſpoſed, to treat with them. And upon my aſſurance of the Perſons Integrity, they ſhould ſee both the Perſon that can continue them in their Commands, and the Inſtructions by which he acts; but no one to be treated with under the degree of a Captain.

May it pleaſe your Exc-ll——; As I have hitherto done what in me lies for the Service of the Government, ſo there ſhall not be any thing wanting for the future; and your Gr-ce's Commands in this Affair, or in any other, I am moſt willing to obey. If my going to *France* for three or four Months will be of uſe, I will do it; I am generally known at the Court of St. *Germains*, and I can have a good Recommendation thither.

If my writing to your Gr-ce be a trouble, by reaſon of your great Affairs; upon your Gr-ce's Recommendation to any other Perſon from whom I may find the like Secrecy, I will be obedient to your Exc-ll— Command.

I do moſt humbly beg, that as your Gr-ce was pleaſed to let me *know* that I ſhould be *provided* for, that I may not be forgot, for I do wholly depend on your Gr-ce's Favour. The Gentlemen in the Country are making their Intereſt for Parliament-men; ſeveral will put up for this County.

As the difficulty for this Campagn was great to raiſe Recruits, ſo every Year it will be greater, and conſequently the Charge. I have thought on a Method by which his Majeſty may be well furniſhed with Men for the future, without any charge or diſguſt to the Publick, which I am *ready* to demonſtrate when I am *commanded*.

I moſt humbly beg pardon for this trouble, and that your Exc-ll— will be pleaſed to honour me with a Line by the Bearer, that I may thereby know your Gr-ce's Pleaſure, which will be a great ſatisfaction to

Highdown, Sept. 3. 95.

Your Exc-ll— moſt, *&c.*

The

The Correſpondence continued.

The third of December 1695.

In a few days after I had been in Town, I waited on his Gr-ce the D— of *S*—— to know his Commands; who then was pleaſed to admit me to his Preſence, and bid me *name* what I thought *neceſſary* to *ſupport* the charge of my *Correſpondence.* I did not name any Sum, but left it to *diſcretion.* Upon which his Gr-ce order'd me to ſend my Servant the next day; by whom he was pleaſed to ſend me a Bill of twenty pound: And in the Letter *promiſes to pay the like Sum quarterly, and beſides to reward me particularly for every Diſcovery effected by my means.*

The Minutes of the 3d of December 95. *with his Gr-ce.*

1. That I have now a *greater* Intereſt with the Party than before, and will *continue* my Correſpondence if his Gr-ce pleaſeth; which was accepted.

2. That I am now particularly acquainted with one *Holmes*, and alſo with one who at-

tends *Ferguſon*; that by means of theſe two new Acquaintance, I ſhall learn more of the Proceedings of the King's Enemies, they being the Perſons that receive and ſend moſt of the Letters that go to and from *France* by the private Boat.

3. Then it was agreed, that I ſhould endeavour to find out the private Boat that carried the Letters, under pretence of going to *France*, and if poſſible to get *Ferguſon* ſecured.

4. The D— then told me, that in his Progreſs with the King he went by the Gentleman's Houſe in *Nottinghamſhire* where the Arms lay concealed. I reminded his Gr-ce that this was Sir *Thomas Parkyns*'s Houſe, whereas the Arms were at Sir *William's* in *Warwickſhire*.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

IN humble obedience to your Commands I have ſent my Man; and what Inſtructions your Gr-ce at any time gives me, ſhall be faithfully obſerv'd.

I cannot but take this opportunity to give your Gr-ce my moſt humble Acknowledgments for the honour and kindneſs your Gr-ce

was

was pleaſed to give me, in *leaving* it to me to *name* what I thought *neceſſary* to ſupport my *Expence.* I aſſure your Gr-ce, that whatever is appointed for me, ſhall be moſt thankfully receiv'd, and diſpoſed of for his Majeſty's Service. I wholly rely on your Gr-ce's *Favour* in all things; and I doubt not but to approve my ſelf

Dec. 4. 95. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

A Copy of the D--- of S---- Letter, in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letter.

'I Have ſent you the incloſed Bill of twenty Pounds, and ſhall continue the ſame Sum to you quarterly, the firſt beginning next *Chriſtmaſs.* I deſire you will particularly apply your ſelf to the two things we agreed on; and if you can effect any conſiderable diſcovery of that kind, or any other, you ſhall be conſider'd for it beſides.

The Reader may obſerve, that I did not know what Allowance the D— deſign'd me, till I received this Letter.

It may likewiſe be obſerv'd, that I have done the Nation Service; and that I was only to

make Diſcoveries, and not to be an Evidence; for which I was to be rewarded over and above my fix'd Penſion.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

THE conſideration of your Gr-ce's Favour and Care of me, obliges me to perform my Promiſe with all the exactneſs and convenient ſpeed that's poſſible; and I doubt not of anſwering your Gr-ce's Commands to ſatisfaction.

As to the firſt, of *Ferguſon*, the Perſon who is his Attendant hath been out of Town; he was with me yeſterday, and goes out of Town again for ſome few days. He is abſolutely at my command; and to make him ſo, I allow him ſome Money weekly, and have given him ſome Clothes. This Perſon carries and receives the Letters that go to and from *France*.

☞ Letters of a week ago do aſſure the Faction, that *the* TOLOUN *Fleet will be out, and make their way to* Breſt; and if the *Engliſh* Fleet is not out by the middle of *February*, I fear they will obtain their Deſign. I aſſure your Grace, that the *Male-contents* are now very active, and as confident of Succeſs as can be imagined. Therefore a great regard muſt be had to the early equipping the Fleet; one month

month will diſcover more of the reality of *Affairs.*

As to your Gr-ce's ſecond Command, of the Boat, I have declared my Intention of going to *France*, and I ſhall not want Recommendation; and if no further Inſtructions come, then they will forward me all that is poſſible; but in order to it, Letters muſt be firſt ſent to obtain leave: I am deſir'd to ſtay five or ſix weeks. The late King *hath put moſt of his Officers away from him*; but truly the intent of that is with a deſign *to have them in* England *to do him ſervice here, to manage an Army when there is occaſion:* For a great many are here that have ſerv'd him in *Ireland*, *Scotland*, and *France*. One dined with me the other day, who hath been over about two or three months. I am invited to a Club with them. They are now ſo cautious, that they meet in by-corners of the Town, in private Houſes, and at Taverns in obſcure places. A great care muſt be had that ſome of them do not get into the Army; it is not with a good intention that they take Commiſſions: Captain *Moore*, and Captain *Haly*, both *Iriſh* Men, who have been Officers abroad, are now ſoliciting for Commands.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce; Mr. *Chevery*, a North-Country man, who is now in *Newgate* about the *Dog*-Tavern Riot, lies for a Fine of 500 Mark. He has, by his Friends, ſolicited Mr. —— to beg the Fine; who they ſay would have undertaken the Affair for a 100 *l.* to be paid as he directed. But they cannot by any means reach higher than fifty or ſixty Pounds; and that to be gather'd by Subſcription from his Acquaintance, for truly he is not worth a Farthing. Captain *George Porter* who hath paid in his Fine of five hundred Marks, dined with me the other day, and deſired me to engage ſome one to do it, I having often ſolicited Buſineſs at Court.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce; This is a Sum that another will get: I therefore humbly beg, if it falls in your Gr-ces way, to procure it for me; but in another Name, that it may not be diſcover'd that I have it, or that I apply to your Gr-ce. It will the better enable me to proceed in his Majeſty's Service, by reaſon of the great Expence I am at in keeping Company. This will make me to have ſuch an Intereſt in *Goodman* and *Porter*'s Party, that they cannot do any thing without my knowledg, they being likewiſe of Sir *William Parkyns*'s Faction. Beſides, this Perſon's being at liberty can be no prejudice to the Govern-

ment,

ment, by reaſon he will be always in my reach. I humbly beg your Gr-ce's Anſwer, for on *Tueſday* night I am to give in my Anſwer at *Covent-Garden* Tavern, otherwiſe one Captain *M——ry* a *Jacobite* will get it by the Earl of *Ar--le.* I am

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Dec. 16. 95.

A Copy of the D--- of S---- Letter, in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letter.

'WHILST you continue to do Service, *I will not fail to keep my Promiſe*; and if any *conſiderable Diſcovery* be made by *your means*, you ſhall be *rewarded particularly*: But as to what you propoſe of begging the Fine, I can ſay nothing to that, nor do I think it could help the Buſineſs to have you appear to have much Intereſt at Court.

Wedneſday.

It is further to be obſerved, that in the D—— Letter there is an acknowledgment of my Services, with a promiſe of a particular Reward for Diſcoveries by my means to be effected:

effected: by which it appears that I was only to give notice of things, and not to be an Evidence.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Humbly give thanks for your Gr-ce's great Care and Kindneſs expreſs'd for me in your laſt; and I aſſure your Gr-ce that I will no more attempt any thing of the like nature, for fear I may be diſcover'd by the Party.

It is moſt certain, that the *Male-contents* have receiv'd Inſtructions to *prepare and* ☞ *be in a readineſs, for the* Toloun *Fleet will make their way to* Breſt; and they daily expect to hear of their being out. *New-years Day*, according to the *French* account, is the day intended for their ſailing; and if poſſible before the buſineſs of the Coin be ſettled.

This Affair is yet communicated but to a few, and ſome Commiſſions are come over. The Perſons I apply'd to for going to *France*, will not now hear of it, they tell me my Service will be expected here; and if *the Buſineſs doth not ſucceed*, then I am to go: a Relation of mine being a Colonel, I may have what Poſt I pleaſe. I have been with a Club of Officers who have ſerved abroad, and I find they have the like *Inſtructions*.

The

The Party are more cloſe than ever I knew them to be, and truſt but a few, by reaſon many of their ſide have been, and ſtill are ſo fooliſh as to brag and talk of the News they hear, and ſo they will not communicate any of their Deſigns to them, until they are ſo publick that every body muſt know them. The Faction are extreamly pleaſed that the Government is not apprehenſive of their Intentions.

That they may have the greater confidence in me, I diet at a Houſe amongſt Gentlemen that are wholly their own; it is at the Houſe where Sir *William Wallis* boarded: and I keep no Company that are for the Government, that the others may not be jealous of me. This muſt be carried on with the greateſt privacy, that when the Affair comes to a ripeneſs they may be the better ſecured.

I was asked laſt night to go to the Tavern, but refuſed; and to day was told that *Ferguſon* was there; I now know moſt of his Company, ſo that he cannot eſcape me long. But a method muſt be taken, that upon the leaſt notice he may be forthwith ſeized, for he is very ſhy, it cannot well be till after *Chriſtmaſs*. The young man I rely on will be out of Town theſe *Holy-days*: there will be alſo neceſſity for me to go into the Country for a week, for by ſo doing I ſhall diſcover more

of

of their Deſigns. Mr. *Holmes* who receives the Inſtructions from abroad, will be at the place where I intend; I have made him my Friend by often drinking with him.

I am oblig'd to keep much Company, and I am not a day free, ſo that my Expences are very conſiderable, by reaſon I am neceſſitated to excuſe ſome of the Company from paying; and a Man is alſo oblig'd to appear well in Clothes, otherwiſe he is ſlighted: and it prevails upon People to be the more open and free when they ſee he has the appearance of a Gentleman. I do not keep any Perſon company, but what I make uſe of for his Majeſty's Service: And I am ſure there can nothing happen but what I ſhall be able to give timely notice of; and what I have engag'd to do I will faithfully perform. I hope there is no reaſon now to doubt of me: I do not hereby mean that I am diſſatisfy'd at what your Gr-ce hath done for me, being thankful for it; but at this juncture, for three or four months, it will be very neceſſary, and much for his Majeſty's Service, that I ſhould not be deſtitute of a reaſonable ſupply: I can ſay this, I have not ſince I have been in Town, ſpent any Money for my own diverſion: To be the better huſband, I have walked from one end of the Town to the other, having one Company in *Holborn*, one in the *City*, one at *Charing-Croſs*, and

and another in *Piccadilly*; ſo that I may without vanity affirm, that I have no pleaſure but in doing the King's Service, which is the principal thing I aim at, and that I may have the honour of continuing in your Gr-ce's Favour; for it is my greateſt ambition to be worthy the Character of being

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Decemb. 23.

POSTSCRIPT.

Juſt now the Perſon that delivers the Letters was with me, and confirms *the Buſineſs of the Deſcent*, and tells me that the Inſtructions are communicated but to a *few Perſons*; and that at the late King's Court it is hardly diſcourſed of, they being reſolved to keep the matter private until they are ready to put it in execution, for they that are there can be ready in a ſhort time. The *Forces* intended for the *Invaſion* are not to march until the Fleet is out at *Toloun*, and they are to make no ſtay on the Coaſt, but immediately to imbark. He tells me that he uſes to deliver out about forty Letters, and complained of ſome of the Party's unkindneſs in not gratifying him for his trouble. He informed me, that he carried three Letters to the

L—d

L—d *Arr—n* the laſt Summer, who gave him three Guineas a time; Sir *John Friend* a Citizen half a Crown a time. But now Capt. *H-mbl-t-n* delivers the L—d *Arr—n*'s Letters. There is one Capt. *Neale* who is a Perſon of great Intelligence, and Capt. *Chernock hath this private Inſtruction about the intended Deſcent.* I ſhall by degrees get out *the forty Names*, but the Letters are all directed in contrary Names, and written in a Cant; they daily expect another Poſt. A Man muſt learn Affairs of them, by leading and drawing Queſtions, and by being always with them, and alſo generous and free. I made the Perſon that delivers the Letters this day a Preſent. I am ſure I ſhall have immediate occaſion for Money. I will ſend my Servant to know your Gr-ce's Pleaſure; and when your Gr-ce at any time commands my attendance, let a Note be left with Mr. *Lewis* at the *Green*-Houſe in *Scotland*-Yard in *White-hall* a day or two before, by reaſon I lodg at the *Red-ſpikes* in *Red-Lion* Square.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

IN my laſt I made mention of the Deſign of the Enemy for this Spring, and I find that it holds true. I have enter'd into an Acquaintance with Capt. *H-m-bl-t-n*, by the means of Mr. *Holms*; and I am to meet him with others, who have receiv'd Intelligence. On *Thurſday* Night, at a Tavern in *Covent-Garden*, Capt. *Neale* with whom I am not yet acquainted, is to be with us; I know he has receiv'd a Letter to the ſame intent, and ſo has Sir *William Parkyns*: There will be moſt of *Ferguſon*'s Company. I do not know but that he may be there, by reaſon I am obliged to come alone. I have here incloſed ſent a Paper, which I receiv'd from a *Scots* Gentleman, who is alſo to ſend me *Glencoes* Caſe lately written; it's a very ſcurrilous Paper, and I believe *Ferguſon* is the Author of it. This is certain, that both the *Engliſh* and *Scots* careſs him mightily. I humbly beg your Gr-ce's Anſwer to my laſt. I am, in all humility,

Dec. 29. 95. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

* *The Reader may obſerve, that all the Letters which his Gr-ce was pleaſed to ſend me in anſwer to mine, I have inſerted immediately after the ſaid Letters.*

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce ;

THE repetition of the ſame thing often leſſens the value of it ; but as theſe Affairs are of the laſt conſequence, and require a daily confirmation, I once more humbly offer it as my advice, that a due proviſion and care be taken to prevent and undermine the Deſigns that are now hatching and blowing up againſt the Government. I have not mentioned any thing but what is true, and I can juſtify, that ſo I may the better appear your Gr-ce's moſt faithful Servant.

As to the Deſcent, I have good reaſons to believe the truth of it. 'Tis now again repeated, by a poſitive Command, to have all things in a readineſs in order to it. But this Affair is communicated but to a few Perſons, and carried on with the greateſt ſecrecy, the Fr--ch K. having been ſo often betray'd, as they term it, and thereby obliged to alter his Meaſures, by reaſon of the folly of the *Jacobites* here.

Yeſterday I was deſired to get a Liſt of the Forces and Colonels Names here; and alſo it was inquired into, what number of Guards uſually attend his Majeſty when he goes abroad? The Intention of this I do not yet know ; I believe it is of *a bad conſequence*

ſequence, therefore it is neceſſary to double the Number, and that quickly too.

Mr. *Holmes* came from Sir *William*'s this week, by reaſon of the Expreſs, and their great expectations from abroad. He tells me, Sir *William* is well pleaſed with my deſign of going to *France*; and in caſe they are diſappointed in their Affairs, then I ſhall go.

As to *Ferguſon*, it will be difficult to take him in a Lodging; but if a Method was concerted, it would not be ſo to take him in a *Tavern*. *There never were in this Reign more Deſigns againſt the Government than now.* But it is too tedious always to give a full Account by Letter. As I have engaged that nothing can be done of a bad Conſequence, without my getting a knowledg of it; ſo nothing ſhall be wanting, if his Majeſty will only ſupport my Expences, which truly are great, but to a good purpoſe. I do not propoſe any thing that I may ſave a Farthing, until I have perform'd the greateſt Service: Therefore I humbly beg that your Gr-ce will be pleaſed to let me have an immediate Supply, and liberty to wait on your Gr-ce to ſatisfy you how I ſpent the laſt, and give a full account of all Affairs, which I doubt not but will be to your ſatisfaction. I am, as moſt oblig'd to be,

Jan. 5. 1695. Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

It is to be obſerved, that upon writing this Letter, Mr. Holmes, *and Major* Holmes, *had been down at Sir* William Parkyns's *Houſe: Major* Holmes *went down within two or three days after he came from* France. *And upon his return the Affair was inquired into, which is mentioned in the Letter. It is evident, that one of his Inſtructions with Sir* George Barclay *was to kill the King, by their inquiring into the Number of the Guards, that they might proportion their Number ſutable to the Enterprize. It is hereby apparent, that they had a Commiſſion ſo to do, this being the firſt thing enquired into.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

THE Party are now very active and preparing; I am certain of the *Deſcent*: here are now come over ſome Perſons to confirm it, and that the *Toloun* Fleet will be out with all poſſible ſpeed. A great quantity of Arms are brought down to *Brittany* to be tranſported hither; there is come over an * Earl's

* *Mr.* Francis Stafford *was the Earl's Son, (but I did not then know it) whom I afterwards ſaw at the* Bear-*Tavern in* Holborn.

Son

Son who is private, I cannot as yet learn his Name: Some Gentlemen of my acquaintance drank with him the laſt night at the *Dog*-Tavern. He intends to write to one of his Majeſty's Secretaries for leave to appear upon his giving in Bail.

Captain *Vernatti*, *Ferguſon*'s Companion, came to an Acquaintance of mine to let him know of the Certainty of what I have ſo often written; and withal told him, that his Friend *Ferguſon* has written a new Book, and that the Printer is tedious in the printing it, but that it will be out in a ſhort time; I am promiſed one of them. The *Male-contents* were never ſo confident of Succeſs as now, and will leave no Stone unturn'd to bring forward their Deſign before the Buſineſs of the Coin is ſettled, which they give out will not be this four or five months. I doubt not but in a ſhort time to give your Gr-ce as full an account of the Party's proceedings as can be wiſhed, in order to circumvent them.

I humbly beg your Gr-ce will be pleaſed to order me one Sum more this week, and then I am ſure to do my Buſineſs to ſatisfaction. I moſt humbly beg your Gr-ce's Anſwer and Pardon for this trouble. I am, and ever will be,

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Jan. 9. 1695.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Have now Affairs of the *greateſt Conſequence* to communicate, and am ſure to make out what I have ſo often mention'd, for the Perſon employ'd to concert Affairs now, was over here formerly about the *La Hogue* Buſineſs; and I have obtained a knowledg of his Inſtructions, by which means I ſhall be able to prevent *one of the Affairs he is particularly employ'd in*, and I hope to diſappoint him in every thing he is come about: I have his Name, and he is well known to be a Favourite abroad. I have not been ſparing in my Expences, therefore I moſt humbly beg that I may have another Sum immediately order'd me, that I may proceed, and alſo a time appointed to give your Gr-ce a full account of Affairs. The Book I laſt mention'd is now printed, and I ſhall have one for your Gr-ce within a day or two. I moſt humbly beg anſwer by the Bearer. I am, in all humility,

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

*Jan.*30. 13.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Moſt humbly beg your Gr-ce's Anſwer to my laſt. I aſſure your Gr-ce, that *the Affairs I have to communicate are of ſuch a nature, that the preventing of them will be accounted a great Service.* And as to the Perſon who is come to concert Affairs here, when I have told his Name and Buſineſs, if it is thought convenient to ſeize him, I doubt not but to diſcover where he is. He is to return in a ſhort time. I am

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Jan.16. 95.

A Copy of the D-- of S--- Letter, without Date, in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letters.

'I Have been ſo ill ever ſince I received your 'Letter yeſterday, that I am hardly able 'to write, and not in a condition to apply my 'ſelf to Buſineſs: But if the Matter be of 'great haſte and conſequence, I would deſire 'you would communicate it to Mr. *V*—— my 'chief Clerk, *for whoſe Secrecy and Fidelity I 'will be anſwerable.* If I have your Anſwer 'that you conſent to this, I deſire you would

'ſend your Man with it to morrow morning
'before nine a Clock, and then you ſhall have
'a time appointed you, and an Anſwer to the
'other part of your Letter.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Am extreamly troubled for your Gr-ce's Indiſpoſition, and chearfully ſubmit to your Commands. I cannot wiſh for a greater ſatisfaction than your Gr-ce's aſſurance of Secrecy: it will be greatly for the Service of the Government that my Name be concealed. After I have told the Buſineſs of this Perſon, it muſt not occaſion yet the taking up of any other Perſons diſcours'd with, by reaſon the Buſineſs is not yet come to a ripeneſs; and the diſcovery of this Perſon muſt be ſo managed, that it may appear as if the Government was inform'd of theſe Matters from abroad, for they are jealous of many there. If not ſo done, I ſhall be of little uſe; but I ſhall take care always to be provided againſt them, for when they are to act, I am to be one, and in *Commiſſion*. I am wiſhing your Gr-ce a ſpeedy Recovery.

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Jan. 17. 95.

A Copy of the D--- of S---- Letter without Date, in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letter.

'BY your Letter I do not underſtand, 'whether you are willing to ſee Mr. 'V— or no; if you are, ſend me a Letter to 'morrow, and let your Man come earlier 'than he did this morning, for to day he was 'an hour too late.

Friday.

I returned anſwer, that I was very willing to ſee Mr. V—, *and that I was concern'd his Gr-ce did not underſtand that I was willing to comply with his Commands by my laſt; and that I now ſent my Servant to know when I ſhould wait on Mr.* V—.

A Copy of the D--- of S---- Letter, in anſwer to my Meſſage.

Saturday.

'YOUR Man being out of the way a-'gain when Mr. *V*— was here, I am 'forced to tell you, that if you call on him to 'morrow morning about eight of the Clock, 'tell Mr. *V*— you are the Gentleman I ſpoke

' to him this morning of, he will hear your Bu-
' ſineſs. He lives in *Frith*-ſtreet near *So-*
' *Ho.*

The Minutes *of the 19th of* January 1695. *with Mr.* V—, *at his Houſe in* Frith-*ſtreet* So-Ho: *And on* Monday *the 20th of* Janua-ry, *at the Back-ſtairs in* White-hall.

SIR,

I am order'd to wait on you by command from the D— of *S*——. My buſineſs with you, *Sir*, is to communicate ſome Affairs that I have given an account of to his Gr-ce by my Letters. I let him know that I had cor-reſponded with his Gr-ce a long time, and that it was his Gr-ce's Indiſpoſition that oc-caſion'd me to come to him; and then ſhew'd to Mr. *V*— the D— of *S*—— Letter.

1. The Affair I am come about is this, *A Deſcent is reſolv'd to be made upon* England, and will be put in execution as ſoon as poſſible. In order to it, *Commiſſions are come to ſeveral here*, and Forces are moving towards the Coaſt; and a great quantity of Arms are brought down to *Brittany* to be tranſported hither. I am informed that the Force will be about 30000 Men, but will not be poſitive as to

to the Number. This Affair is reſolv'd on, and ſeveral Perſons have been treated with in order to it, and commiſſion'd to *riſe*.

2. There is one Major *Holmes* come over with particular Inſtructions about this Affair. He went down to Sir *William Parkyns*'s Houſe juſt upon his coming over, which was about *New-year*'s tide. This Perſon alſo came over about the *La-Hogue* Affair; and I underſtand he is ſoon to return with an account of the *poſture of Affairs here*. This matter will be forwarded, if poſſible, before the buſineſs of the Coin is ſettled. Then I acquainted him that Sir *William Parkyns had a Commiſſion*, and that I was alſo to have one.

3. That one of Major *Holmes*'s Inſtructions was to procure ſome * *Dys* or *Deys* from *Roettier* in the *Tower*, to ſend over to the late King to coin ſome Mill'd Money to pay his Army when he landed in *England*. This I told him I was confident of, and deſired him to get, if poſſible, the *Deys* of King *Charles* and King *James* out of *Roettier*'s hands, under a pre-

* *A Complaint was made againſt Mr.* Roettier *concerning the Deys, and was examin'd by a Committee of Parliament in* 169⅞. *which was above a Year after I gave in an account of that Matter.*

tence

tence of ſeeing them. Mr. *V*—— reply'd, *He would do ſo.*

4. I acquainted him, that the reaſon of ſo many Officers coming from *France*, was more out of a deſign to ſerve here, becauſe the *Jacobites* wanted Officers to command their *Party*, than out of any neceſſity that the late King could not ſupport them.

Mr. *V*—— reply'd, *Can you tell us which way to prevent the* Deſcent? *and do you know where they will Land?*

I anſwer'd him, that I did not know where they would Land; but the way to prevent them was to get the Fleet ready: and I adviſed, that what Forces were in *England* might be ordered to quarter near *London*, that they might be ready to march upon the firſt occaſion; and that they ſhould have particular Orders to keep a good Watch or Guard in their Quarters, leſt they ſhould be ſurprized; for I am told, ſaid I, that the King's Enemies have a deſign, when the time draws near, to ſurprize, or take the Souldiers Horſes in the night from them; and that is one reaſon that a good Guard ought to be kept.

5. I further told him, that there were ſeveral Perſons who make Intereſt with *Inn-keepers*, and at *Livery* Stables, to ſecure the Horſes in their

their Stables to *mount* the late King's Friends; and that an eye was to be had on them.

6. I moved to have Major *Holmes* taken up, which was very well approv'd on. I assur'd Mr. *V*—— that I could fix him at a Tavern, or at a Dinner, but it would be difficult to do it at a Lodging. I then told him that I did not personally know him, but I would get a description of his Person: And I hope, said I, we may take *Holmes* and *Ferguson* together at a *Tavern*. Mr. *V*—— told me that *Holms* would be most valuable, and pray'd me to labour in that.

I met Mr. *V*—— the next morning at the Back-stairs in *White-hall*, and receiv'd from him a Bill of 20 *l*. He then pray'd me to get a description of *Holmes*, and to fix him as soon as I could. I then desired Mr. *V*—— to get a Blank Warrant seal'd to put in his Name when I sent; The reason why I desir'd this, was for fear some Clerk might give notice, *the Party having their Spies in most Offices*. Mr. *V*—— reply'd, He would write the Warrant himself.

It may be here observed, that I have received but 40 l.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Have incloſed ſent a Pamphlet * juſt come out, written by *Uncle*, as the Party call him, that is, *Ferguſon*; it is a very ſcurrilous Libel. I moſt humbly thank your Gr-ce for the laſt Sum; and I aſſure your Gr-ce I will apply the Money particularly for his Majeſty's Service. I have given Mr. *V*— an account of the Perſon's Name and Buſineſs, and will attend him on *Monday* or *Tueſday* to ſettle the Method for the ſeizing him, which may be a means to ruin, or at leaſt retard the Affairs he is come about; *They are of the higheſt nature*, and *never was there a greater Blow intended againſt the Government*. I have a great many more Particulars of this Myſtery than before. There is another *Poſt* daily expected, by which they will receive their Orders; until then I would not have the Perſon taken up, for then I ſhall have an account of all. *What I have next to communicate will be ſurprizing, and I am ſure will merit the greateſt Reward*, which I cannot doubt of from your Gr-ce, to whom I will be true and juſt in every thing. I am

* *That was the* Depredation *Book.*

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

Jan. 24. 1695.

I

I had now a greater inſight into the Deſign intended againſt the King's Perſon, which I only gueſs'd at on the 5th of January, *from their inquiry into the Number of Guards which attended the King.*

The Minutes with Mr. V— *at the Back-ſtairs in* White-hall, *the latter end of* January 1695.

1. I confirm'd the Matter relating to the *Deſcent*, for now they had freſh Orders to proceed and prepare with all expedition. I then gave him a deſcription of *Holmes*'s Perſon, and that I could fix him ſo that he might be taken in two or three days.

Mr. *V*— was then pleaſed to ſay, that *it ſignified nothing to take him*, for they could not hold him, having no Evidence againſt him. I reply'd, that I thought *his coming from* France *without leave was Crime enough*; and the ſeizing him would ſurprize the reſt of the Party, and be a means to prevent the *Deſcent*. He was then very *cold*, upon which I writ the following Letter.

An

An Obſervation.

Now it was reſolv'd upon, when this laſt Expreſs came from France, *that* Holmes *ſhould ſtay in* England. *He was ſecond to Sir* George Barclay *in all things. And it is further evident, that the intended Aſſaſſination was by particular order from the late King, by reaſon the Number of Guards that attended his Majeſty was ſent over to him.*

To J--- V---- *Eſq;*

SIR,

I Perceiv'd that the Affairs diſcours'd of the other night, appear'd to you as *dubious*, and the Accounts I have given not to be *credited*. I aſſure you, *Sir*, that I am not ſo diſingenuous to my ſelf, as to abuſe his Gr-ce with only Notions of my own, or any thing which cannot be made appear.

I muſt confeſs that I will never act as an *Evidence*, tho to get the *Indies*: However I will not ſcruple to do any thing for the Service of the Government, except being an Evidence. I doubt not, if due Methods are taken as I am willing and free to direct, to unravel

ravel the Deſigns of the Party for this Year, and I hope for ever. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt, *&c.*

I wrote one Letter to Mr. V—— *after this, to acquaint him that I was going out of Town*, &c.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Cannot but always own your Gr-ce's honourable Treatment, and in acknowledgment I will be ever grateful. In obedience to your Commands, I complied to meet Mr. *V*—. The Affairs then diſcourſed on ſeem'd *feizable* and *acceptable*; upon which I labour'd, as much as poſſible, to compleat them. But ſince I find a ſurprizing coldneſs, and that which is thought this day acceptable, is not ſo to morrow. I report nothing but what is matter of *Fact*.

I gave an account in my laſt to Mr. *V*— that I was going out of Town; the Coach was full, and ſo I was diſappointed: but ſince the Perſon whom I intended to viſit, is come to Town, I have learn'd the Affair I wanted to know, and ſo I have my end.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce; To magnify my Services is to leſſen them: but ſo far I may ſay without oſtentation, that no Man can do more than my ſelf, and is more true to your Gr-ce in every reſpect. *The Storm now coming is ſo violent, concerted, and ſudden too, that it will be a great work to prevent it.*

I have thrown my ſelf into your Gr-ce's power more by inclination than hopes of Profit, and from thence conclude my ſelf ſafe in your Gr-ce's uſage. I have things to communicate to your Gr-ce, which 'tis fit your Gr-ce ſhould receive firſt from me, and not from any ſecond Hand whatever. *The Affair is ſo conſiderable, that a delay may be dangerous.* Therefore I humbly beg leave to wait on your Gr-ce: I am ſure by granting this, if your Gr-ce's thoughts are leſſen'd for me, to recover my Credit, and wholly approve my ſelf

Your Gr-ce's moſt, *&c.*

February 7. 1695.

Your Gr-ce's Commands and Time I beg to know.

It is now to be obſerv'd that Mr. V— *delivers moſt of the following Letters, and returns the* D— *of* S— *Anſwers.*

A

A Copy of Mr. V— *Letter, in anſwer to the above-written Letter.*

SIR,

'I Have delivered your Letter to my L—d 'D—, who deſires you to come to him 'on Monday Morning: I am

Saturday. *SIR,*

This was Feb. 8. Your moſt humble Servant,

J— V—.

The Minutes of the 10*th of* February 1695, *being Monday, with his Gr-ce the D— of S—, at his Houſe in St.* James's Square.

1. That a *Deſcent was fully agreed on*: That the Malecontents were preparing in order to it: That *Commiſſions were come over*; that for inſtance, Sir *William Parkyns* and Sir *John Friend* had each of them a Commiſſion for a Regiment.

2. That Sir *William* did employ me to ſollicite Mr. *Cr-v-n*, the Earl of *Cr-v-n*'s Heir, to

accept of a Lieutenant Colonel's Command: That having a great Kindneſs for the Gentleman, I did not preſs the matter home to him, on purpoſe that he might not ingage; and only reported to Sir *William*, that Mr. *Cr-v-n* had not Money, but what he could do he would, and that he had about ſix or ſeven Horſes.

3. That Sir *William* with Capt. *Sc-dm-re* had bin down at *Leiceſter* to treat with, and conſult the Gentlemen that way, and that I underſtood Sir *W-lſt-n D-x-*, and Mr. *P-r-f-y*, &c. were with Sir *William* at the *Angel* Inn in *Leiceſter*, and that they were well diſpoſed.

4. That Sir *George Barclay* and Major *George Holmes* were lately come from *France*, and that they had brought Orders and Inſtructions over, and were in daily conſultation here.

5. That they had a deſign upon the King and *Kenſington*, and alſo to ſeize or ſurprize the Guards, *&c. His Gr-ce replied, he did believe it.* That if I had Money to equip my ſelf out, I was ſure to know the time; and I did not doubt but to prevent their Deſign. That I would not bargain or article with my Prince, but

but leave my ſelf wholly to the King's Favour; and then intimated that in a change of Government, I could have a Regiment: but at the ſame time I hinted, that no *Proteſtant* could expect to continue long in Command, the Papiſts being ſo *violent* and *revengeful*.

6. That I was inform'd that *Ferguſon* was concern'd in this Affair, and to be a Privy Counſellor, if a Change of Government was effected.

7. That Secretary *Melford* was the principal Manager of theſe Undertakings, and that *Middleton* and the *Compounding* Party were ignorant of the Deſign: and that many Expreſſes were diſpatcht by the F— K.

8. That Arms were ſent down to the Coaſt, and the Forces were alſo moving that way, in order to the *Deſcent*; and that the *Toloun* Fleet would come into the Channel: But however that happen'd, the Deſign would go on; for they did not abſolutely depend on the *Toloun* Fleet. I then wiſhed that Admiral *Rook* was at home.

9. I gave an account that a great many Officers were come over under a pretence that the late King *James* order'd them to ſhift for

themſelves; but truly the meaning of it was the better to colour their ill Deſigns here, the *Engliſh* wanting Officers to command their Party.

My L—d D— gave Encouragement, and order'd me to call on him in four or five days, as if to be ſupply'd with Money on that account: upon which I promiſed ſome of the Faction to provide a Horſe, &c. *I daily confirm'd the deſign of the Party, and that it went hourly on. I very much preſs'd to be admitted again to my L—d D—'s preſence, to give a full account in perſon, as appears by the following Letters.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

SInce I was laſt to wait on your Gr-ce, I have been very induſtrious to find out the Means and Method for the bringing about *this great intended Revolution.* I have now a greater inſight into it than before: I muſt ſay this; I think if it ſhould be effected, it will be the ſtrangeſt and moſt wonderful I have ever yet met with in Hiſtory.

I have been this day at my L——d *R-dn-rs* Stable to buy a Horſe; I muſt have all my Equipage ſutable for this Affair out of hand, otherwiſe I ſhall be uncapable to perform my Promiſe: and I am ſure I can do it. Money

now,

now, and liberal too, muſt not be wanting. *What is done to capacitate me muſt be this week, otherwiſe it may be too late.* The *Malecontents* do not ſpare for any thing in this Affair. My Credit will be leſſen'd, if I do not equal them in appearance. I aſſure your Gr-ce it is a great Concern which I have undertaken: I am forced to ſpend at an extravagant rate, and muſt run the hazard of my Life, if I am diſcovered. Your Gr-ce was pleaſed to command my Attendance within four or five days, the ſooner the better: I beg to know when, by a Letter from Mr. *V*—— this day. I am, and ever will be,

Your Gr-ce's

Febr. 11.
95. Moſt, *&c.*

Mountague Brown *Secretary is juſt come over.*

It may here be obſerved that the following Letters went incloſed to Mr. V—, *who deliver'd them to his Gr-ce.*

A Copy of Mr. V--'s Letter, in anſwer to that which I ſent the D-- of S-.

SIR,

'YOur Letter of yeſterday was not deliver'd 'to me till this Evening; however, I 'have had an opportunity to give the incloſed 'immediately to my L— d D—ke, who 'commands me to tell you in anſwer to it, 'that he would have you to ſend him in writ-'ing what the Deſign is, that you only hint at 'in general.

'That you may both conſider of it, before 'you engage in thoſe great Expences you 'think neceſſary; and you may be aſſured 'it ſhall be managed with all ſecrecy on his 'part; and therefore does not think fit you 'ſhould be ſeen coming to him, leſt it might 'bring you under any ſuſpicion. I am

SIR,

Febr. 12. 95. Your Humble Servant

J. V——.

May

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce,

I Am oblig'd by your Gr-ce's great Care and Kindneſs never to maſque any thing from your knowledg; I hope your Gr-ce will not now let me want a Support; otherwiſe my Credit will fall, tho I have been at ſo great an Expence; for I am already ingag'd to equip my ſelf, and that to morrow.

To give an account of all Circumſtances relating to the Deſign I intimated, will be more than I can write, and tedious for your Gr-ce to read. In ſhort, a Project is laid by Order and Command of the Late King, and the F— King, to make an Inſurrection here; and Gentlemen have been conſulted with, and commiſſion'd to riſe in many Counties of *England* at the ſame time. One Gentleman I was with laſt night, as I am told, does promiſe to raiſe a thouſand Men. The *Toloun* Fleet is now out, and we daily expect to hear of their Arrival at *Breſt*. But the Affair of the greateſt expedition, and not yet communicated but to a few, and they to be Undertakers, is this, *To carry off the King, and that quickly too; there will be at leaſt* 60 *Commiſſion'd Officers to do it: When they have beat the Guards, they are to force the King to ride with them, and a Veſſel is ready to carry him to* France. The Order, as they

they ſay, is not to abuſe his Perſon; and when the King is there (for the Veſſel will be over in a few hours) whilſt the Nation is in a *Conſternation* for the Perſon of the King, then the *French* will appear, and bring over the late King. The Perſons that are to be chief Actors are to be made Lords. There are daily Prayers made for the accompliſhment of this great Deſign, and 40000 *l.* remitted for this and the *Inſurrection.*

Now my requeſt to your Gr-ce is, that I may be furniſhed with Money to equip, as I have promiſed, and as your Gr-ce gave me ſome hopes to believe, when I was with you, which made me go on accordingly. My end in this is, *not only to know their Perſons and their Numbers, but to be equally ingag'd to know the day and time, that ſo I may prevent their Deſigns*; which I am ſure I can do, if I am aſſiſted in time. I need not magnify this Project, it will ſpeak enough for it ſelf, and what I deſerve for breaking of it. I could not anſwer the obliging Letter Mr. *V*—— writ by your Gr-ce's Command, till to day, by reaſon I was at a great Entertainment yeſterday. I am not to buy Horſes or Furniture, but as approved by the Party. *Mountague Brown* Secretary is come over, and two or three more two days ago. There ſhall be nothing for the future demanded of me by your

Gr-ce,

Gr-ce, but what if I am order'd I will communicate to Mr. *V*——. I am

Febr. 14. Your Gr-ce's
95.

Moſt, *&c.*

1. *Note, that I was in the morning the day before the writing of this Letter, with Mr.* Chernock *at the* White Horſe *Tavern in* Norfolk Buildings *near to St.* Clements *in the* Strand; *where among other Diſcourſe, he deſired to aſſiſt me in the buying a Horſe. I told him that I had ſeen one at my* L—d R-dn-r's *Stable, and he was a* Grey *one. He told me that he could help me to a Horſe that he knew to be a good one, and he is a* Grey *too, but the price would be forty Pound.*

2. *The Entertainment I mention in the Letter was at Mr.* Braxton's *in the* Savoy; *there were Sir* William Parkyns, *Capt.* Cripps, *Mr.* Ceely *a Weſt Country Gentleman, Captain* Caryl, *Captain* Lewis *the* L—d F-v-ſh-m's *Gentlemen of the Horſe, Captain* Neal, Thomas Lea *a Meſſenger to the late King, Mr.* Holms *called Old* England. *At this Meeting Sir* William *deſired Mr.* Lewis *to aſſiſt me in the buying a Horſe: We ſtaid at* Braxton's, *and at the* Fountain

Fountain *Tavern in the* Strand *till between twelve and one of the Clock at Night.*

3. *It is reported that the* 15*th of* February *was to have been the day on which the King was to be aſſaſſinated. It might indeed be ſo concluded on between ſome of the Parties, but I do not believe it was ſo concluded by all, by reaſon they were not all in a readineſs, and the number not compleat, as appears by* Cranborn's *being taken in to be one of the number of the Conſpirators ſome few days after: Beſides, if it had, it could not well have eſcaped my knowledg.*

4. *Tho the manner the Conſpirators gave out among themſelves of conveying the King into* France *was impracticable, no one but muſt infer that their Deſign was to kill his Majeſty. This Method was propoſed, as I preſume, rather to ſoften the matter, that they might not by too blunt a Declaration, ſtartle any of their Creatures from proceeding in ſo horrid a Deſign. However I muſt give my Intelligence in the words I receiv'd it.*

A Copy of Mr. V——*Letter, in Anſwer to the Letter dated the* 14*th of* February 1695.

SIR,

'YOUR Letter has been delivered to my L—d D—ke, who deſires to have an Account from you where Mr. *Brown* is to be found, who you acquaint his Gr-ce is lately come from *France*. I am,

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

J— V—.

I did not receive this Anſwer until Monday *the* 17*th of* February 1695.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

THIS day I received a Letter from Mr. *V*— with your Gr-ce's Commands as to Mr. *Brown*. I aſſure your Gr-ce he is come over, my Authors for it are not only Mr. *Adamſon* where I often dine, but alſo Father *Churchill*, commonly called Dr. *Churchill*. I paid a viſit to him laſt *Friday* night. Amongſt our

our Diſcourſes we were talking of Perſons lately come from *France*; and I told him, that *Mountague Brown* Secretary was come over. He confirmed it, and that he had ſeen him; he alſo told me he had made his Peace with the Government, and was a going down as the next day, or within a day or two, into the Country, which muſt be to the L—d *Mountague Browns* at *Midhurſt* in *Suſſex*, which I will further inquire into. The old Gentleman then told me, that he believ'd *we ſhould have a merry Eaſter*. I cannot find that he is privy to the *grand* Deſign I mention'd, but only to the *Invaſion* in general, which I aſſure your Gr-ce is true. I was very much concerned, when I receiv'd Mr. *V*— Letter, that the other parts of my Letter were not anſwered. Affairs were never carried on with that ſecrecy and prudence as at this time, the Party are jealous of every body; two of the *principal Actors* in the Deſign I have mention'd, ſee none but thoſe whom their Inſtructions permit them to treat with. *Ferguſon is in this Plot*, being called upon to equip. According to the encouragement I receiv'd, I gave a promiſe that I would do it laſt week, and again to day; and if I am not furniſhed with Money ſome time to day, I ſhall utterly loſe my Credit, and can never expect to wind my ſelf into the depth of things: I never ſpare for the Charge, and

and with Expences nothing can be conceal'd from me. I had nothing in excuſe, but that the Perſon who is to lend me Money could not do it till to day, Guineas not being before ſettled: Therefore I humbly beg your Gr-ce to let me be provided at this time, when I may do moſt Service; I ſhall think it an Age until I have your Gr-ce's Anſwer to morrow by twelve of the Clock by Mr. *V*——. *If I was not ſure of doing the greateſt and beſt of Service, I would not be thus importunate; or if I was not fully ſatisfy'd, upon mature deliberation, that what I beg is abſolutely neceſſary:* For I have ſo great a regard and value for your Gr-ce, that I would not for the World loſe your eſteem by asking any thing that is unneceſſary. I am humbly begging your pardon for this trouble.

Your Gr-ce's

Febr. 17.

95. Moſt, *&c.*

By reaſon I receiv'd no Anſwer to my Letter at twelve of the Clock as I expected, I went down to White-hall *in the Evening, and ſent for Mr.* V—— *to ſpeak with him at the Back-ſtairs.*

The

The Minutes of the 18*th of* February, *being* Tueſday, *with Mr.* V— *at the Back-ſtairs.*

1. Mr. *V*— brought me a Bill of * 20 *l.* and asked me whether that would do? if not, what would? I reply'd, your own reaſon muſt tell you that ſuch a Sum will be of little uſe; I did not think his Gr-ce would have ſent ſuch a Sum. He preſs'd me again to know what would do; I made him anſwer, that I thought I could not do with leſs than fifty Pounds, and then began to reckon up the Charges to equip. I told him, that the King might have the Horſe, *&c.* again, for I did not value a Horſe but for his Service. I remember I talk'd with his Gr-ce to the like effect on the 10*th* of *February*, when I told him of the Deſign againſt the King. Mr. *V*— ſaid, *I was in the right not to accept the Bill, unleſs it was ſufficient.* I reply'd, perhaps my L—d D-ke will be diſpleaſed if I refuſe it. Mr. *V*— anſwer'd, *That he was ſure he would not*; but *ſtill kept the Bill in his hand*, and deſired me to

* *The Reader may here obſerve, that if* 20 l. *would have equipp'd me, then no Objection had been raiſed; but* 30 l. *put a ſtop to my Proceedings, tho abſolutely neceſſary at that critical Juncture.*

write

write immediately to the D— and he would deliver the Letter.

2. I then gave Mr. *V*— a large account of the Plot, and of the Deſign againſt the King's Life, with many of the Particulars, giving him the Names of Sir *George Barclay*, Major *Holmes*, *Chernock*, *Porter*, &c. And begged of him that the King might be intreated not to uſe his Diverſion of ſhooting or hunting for ſome time. He reply'd, *What would you have the King coop'd up?* Sir, anſwer'd I, I do think it will be ſafe for the King not to hunt or ſhoot for a day or two, when ſuch a Matter as a Deſign againſt his Life is reſolv'd on, and to be put in *execution* with the firſt *opportunity*.

3. I then propoſed a Method how the Party might be taken; that when the King went out to hunt, and the *Conſpirators* had fix'd to go, (of which I would give him notice) the King ſhould not return the ſame way, but ſend a Coach and Guards back, and have another Party of Guards ſet out of Town after the *Conſpirators* were gone out, and ſo be in a readineſs to ſurprize them: Which Mr. *V*— approv'd of.

4. *Sir*,

4. *Sir*, continued I, *I cannot get the time if I do not perform my Promiſe; pray move my L—d D--ke again to morrow:* Which he promiſed. And then I writ a Letter as he adviſed, and ſent it that night from the *Back-ſtairs* into the Office, for Mr. *V*—— to carry to my L—d D--ke to let him know that 20 *l.* would not do. I receiv'd an Anſwer the next day.

A Copy of that Letter of the 18*th of* February *before-mention'd, which I writ by Mr.* V—*'s advice.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Was this Evening to wait on Mr. *V*——, and gave him ſome account of Affairs. He was pleaſed, by your Gr-ce's Order, to preſent me a Bill of twenty Pounds. It is a Sum that I do not reject, but am free to accept, and to give your Gr-ce thanks for it. But upon this occaſion I do humbly conceive it will not anſwer the end deſign'd, for I muſt have a Horſe of a good price, which at the cheapeſt cannot be bought for leſs than 25 or 30 *l.* beſides Furniture, *&c.* I can juſtify my ſelf, that I have not been more expenſive than neceſſary, and this Service will ſpeak for it ſelf. It is ill husbandry in me to be ſparing at this

this time: if what I have writ is offenſive, I do moſt humbly beg pardon, for it is not my intention to do any thing diſobliging to your Gr-ce. I am willing to ſubmit to whatſoever your Gr-ce commands me. I am

Feb. 18. 95. Your Gr-ce's

Moſt, *&c.*

A Copy of Mr. V— *Letter, in Anſwer to the Letter of the* 18*th of* February.

S I R,

'I Have given your Letter to my L—d D--ke, who thinks you ſhould be able 'to inform him further, and more particularly 'of the Deſign you hint at, before he parts 'with ſuch a Sum as you demand; and I hope 'you will be able * to ſatisfy him therein, and 'then there will be nothing wanting on his 'part that may be neceſſary for the Service 'propoſed, or for your encouragement. I 'am,

S I R,

Wedneſday Noon. Yours, *J— V—.*

* *By which you may ſee, that Mr.* V— *was ſatisfy'd, and only hoped I might ſatisfy his Gr-ce.*

On *Thurſday* the 20*th* of *Febr.* 95.

I went to White-hall *and ſent a Letter to Mr.* V— *to deſire him to come to me to the* Back-ſtairs, *for I had brought a full Account; and if he pleaſed, he ſhould ſee it before it was ſealed up to ſend to the* D—*ke. Upon which Mr.* V— *did not come, but ſent the following Letter to me at the* Back-ſtairs.

S I R,

'I Have receiv'd your Letter; but ſince my 'L— D-ke deſired you to ſend him in 'writing what you had to inform him of, I 'think you ought to ſend it directly to his 'Gr-ce; and if he is pleaſed I ſhould ſee it, 'that will be beſt after it is delivered. There 'are ſome Gentlemen in the Office that hin-'der me from waiting on you; and therefore 'I take this occaſion to acquaint you, that if 'there be any thing you would have preſented 'to my L—d D-ke, I will take care of it if it 'be put into my hands. I am,

S I R,

Your moſt humble Servant,

J. V—.

I

I did immediately ſeal up in a Cover the following Account, and ſent it from the Back-ſtairs *to Mr.* V—— *into the Office, to be by him delivered to the D—— of* S——.

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Am extreamly troubled that I have been ſo importunate, and now at laſt queſtion'd of the truth of what I have reported: I wiſh it were of no Subſtance; if ſo, I had not troubled your Gr-ce. Firſt then, as to my demands of Money I make none, but leave it wholly to diſcretion, having been ſupply'd hitherto. Mr. *V*—— Letter imports a further Satisfaction, I will therefore now give you all that has come to my intelligence. In my former Letters I intimated more than once, That *there is a Reſolution taken and form'd, and by Authority from* Fr—ce, *to ſeize upon the King at his diverſion of ſhooting or hunting; and if poſſible to carry him off, they having in a readineſs againſt the time, a Veſſel to convey him to* Fr—ce; *and in caſe they cannot do ſo, then they are to gripe him.*

The Method how this was to be carried on and executed, I have been very inquiſitive to know, and have diligently examined the mat-

ter. As firſt, they have got a number of Officers, all or moſt *Roman Catholicks*, to the number of Fifty, that are to undertake the Seizure: And they, in order to it, have bought up Horſes and Furniture, *&c.* and ſo are in a readineſs, as time ſhall offer, for the compleating it. I was with my Intelligencer when he went to buy up Furniture as directed; and I further examined him how this could be put into execution, the difficulty being great for ſo great a number to appear and go out together. He aſſured me that difficulty is paſs'd over, as thus: That it's reſolved, upon the Intelligence they expect of the day the King is to hunt or ſhoot, to diſpoſe of themſelves after this method; to Inn by two or four at ſeveral Inns in adjacent Villages, habited as Country Gentlemen; and upon the day and time of the King's taking his Pleaſure, to meet together to perform this great Deſign. They do conclude, that when this matter is performed, it will ſo amuſe the Government, that they cannot tell in twenty four hours what meaſures or courſe to take; and that in that time they ſhall have carried the King away, or *gripe*d him, as the expreſſion is. Beſides this Body, they are *to have twenty five Foot-men in Ambuſcade.* And upon concluſion of this execrable Deſign, I am further told, that then the Mob will be ſtirr'd up in ſeveral

ſeveral parts of the City, and the Gentlemen are to retreat to their ſeveral Counties to riſe; for all Methods are concerted: and upon this *Hurly-burly* the *French* Fleet will bring over the late King *James*.

The Perſons particularly imploy'd, as I have hitherto learned, are theſe, Sir *George Barclay*, who is made a Major General, and to command as chief Officer in this horrid Deſign, and Major *Holmes*; theſe two lately came from *France*, and disburſe Money in order to it, and are the principal Actors. As for Perſons in Town, I do learn that there is Captain *Chernock*, who has received a Lieutenant Colonels Command; Captain *George Porter*; Mr. *Chambers*, a Captain of a *French* Privateer; Captain *Boyſe*, &c. This is an Affair reſolv'd on, and I dare ſay will be put into execution. As to the General *Invaſion*, that will much depend on this *Action*. I am told that I muſt be imploy'd in *Warwickſhire*. This I am ſure of, I cannot expect to be let deeper into the Secret, unleſs I perform my Promiſe in equipping, which will give me an opportunity to learn every thing. When I am furniſh'd, I am confident nothing will be concealed from me, and dare pawn my Life upon it, to get the time and day, and put matters into ſuch a method as to cruſh them all, when they are ſo diſpos'd, and quarter'd, and to

countermine all their Undertakings. When I have done this, I care not if it is known that I am the Author, ſince I have had ſuch repeated Aſſurances from your Gr-ce, *to be protected and provided for.* Captain *Chernock*, one of the Grand Incendiaries, is to aſſiſt me in providing of Equipage, by which I hope to be further intruſted. This I promiſe, that as your Gr-ce hath given me the honour to intitle my ſelf *Your Gr-ce's faithful Servant*, I will ſo approve my ſelf as to deſerve it; and by your Gr-ce's Recommendation, the King's Favour I humbly beg to know to morrow your Gr-ce's *final Reſolution*; and, if your Gr-ce pleaſeth to allow me liberty, to pay my Duty to your Gr-ce. I am, in all humility,

Febr. 19. 1695.

Your Gr-ce's

Moſt, *&c.*

A Copy of Mr. V--- *Letter, by Command from the* D--- *of* S---, *in anſwer to the aforeſaid Letter.*

S I R,

'I Delivered your Letter yeſterday to my 'L—d D--ke; and moved him again this 'morning upon your ſecond Letter. But his 'Anſwer was both times, that *he was going 'out of Town for three or four days; and he 'thought it would be time enough to conſider of 'your Demands at his return:* and in the mean 'time he ſuppoſed you would be able to get a 'more particular Information. I am,

S I R,

Friday noon. Your moſt humble Servant,

J— V—.

1. It may here be obſerved, that the Information of the 19*th* of *February*, is a fuller Account of that execrable Villany than any yet extant; and not only pav'd the way, but alſo gave a Credit to believe any of the *Conſpirators*, who after fell in; which could not but be expected

pected from the great number of Persons that were engag'd in that barbarous Design, either out of Fear, or for hope of Reward.

2. It may also be observ'd, that I have not only faithfully, but fully perform'd my part, in making so full and ample a discovery of the Enemies Design against his Majesty's Person and Government. And it is evident that no one but my self, has made it his business to countermine their Paces. So that I have answer'd the end of my Commission, which was *to be particularly rewarded for the Discoveries effected by my means.* I was not to be an Evidence.

3. What could I further do, who was to wait for a Resolution from his Gr-ce before I must engage? as appears from Mr. *V*—— Letter from his Gr-ce on the 12*th* of *February* 95. And at last, tho I positively writ for a final Resolve, I was still deferr'd: So that nothing was wanting on my part.

Friday, February *the* 21*st*, *the Passages of that Day.*

On *Friday*, about twelve of the Clock, I receiv'd the aforesaid Letter from Mr. *V*——,

to

to acquaint me that the D— of *S*—— was gone out of Town. I was very much diſturb'd, by reaſon I had writ for a *final Anſwer*. Having notice that the Party were in deep conſultation, I walked down to St. *James*'s Square, to know whether the D--ke was really gone or no. I ſent the Perſon who uſually carried my Letters to make enquiry; He went to the D—— of *S*—— Houſe, and brought me word, that his Gr-ce was gone into the Country to *Stoner* Houſe near *Henly* upon *Thames*. In the Evening I went to *White-hall*; I ſent to Mr. *V*—— to let him know that I thought the D--ke's going out of Town might be prejudicial to the King, and I deſired to ſpeak with him, and to bring with him the Bill of twenty Pounds, which would have been very uſeful to me that night. Upon which I receiv'd the following Letter.

SIR,

'THE Bill I brought * being thought 'not ſufficient, I have returned it, as 'it was my Duty; and I can only obey the

*It is ſtill to be obſerv'd that they were fully ſatisfied in the matter, provided ſo ſmall a Sum as 20 l. would have done the buſineſs.

'Orders

'Orders I receive: I ſhall be ſorry however 'if it be any diſappointment to you to ex- 'pect his Gr-ce's return; but that will be with- 'in a few days. I am,

SIR,

Yours, *J. V*——.

Saturday, *the* 22*d of* February 1695.
the Paſſages of that Day.

In the morning my Intelligencer came to me, and told me, he wonder'd where I was, by reaſon he could not find me the laſt night. I made him anſwer, that I ſat late at Cards: But, pray, how do Affairs go on? He reply'd, he was call'd up in the night, and ordered to give our Friends notice to be ready as this morning: But ſeveral of them were not to be found, ſome of them lay out of their Lodgings laſt night, ſo the matter is deferr'd till another day; the Deſign upon the King would have been put in execution this day if all the Gentlemen could have been found. I called laſt night to tell you, and would have called earlier this morning if they had ſtirr'd out. Beſides, *Chambers* has brought word that the King does not hunt to day, but it will be put in execution whenever he goes

a

a Hunting: I believe on *Tueſday* next it muſt be done, for *they are ready on the other ſide*, (the meaning was as to the *Deſcent*, which was to have ſeconded that barbarous Blow.) I had the ſame things confirm'd by another, and that the Conſpirators were to have gone out, after they had receiv'd notice that the King was gone a hunting, and that they were to quarter in and about *Turnham* Green.

In the Evening I went to *White-Hall*, and ſent from the *Back-ſtairs* the following Letter: Upon which Mr. *V*—— came immediately to me, tho I mention'd that I would attend him in the Morning.

Honoured Sir;

THo I have not been as to the point of time (I fear) uſed as the Intereſt of the King demanded, yet I ceaſe not to be very diligent for his ſafety; I was this Evening to ſpeak with you: But I muſt ſpeak with you to morrow, for I fear my L--d D-ke's Stay will be very prejudicial, except I wait on the King; and if not forthwith aſſiſted, too late for me to proceed in my Service: I will wait on you to morrow Morning by 9 of the Clock at your Houſe, having Affairs to communicate which require a ſpeedy Reſolution.

I am, *Sir*, *&c.*

Feb. 22. 95.

1. I gave Mr. *V*—— an Account of all Particulars, as in *page* 110, 111. You ſee, *Sir*, continued I, that my L--d D-ke's going out of Town might have been prejudicial, and how the King might have been ſerved this day; and you now find that they ſtill reſolve to carry on their wicked Deſigns: pray let the King be intreated not to ſtir a hunting for a time; I hope you have ſo done upon my laſt motion. And then I reminded him of the Method of taking the Conſpirators, as in the 3*d* Minute, *page* 111. Mr. *V*—— at this time did acquaint me that he had ſeen my Letter of the Plot.

2. I acquainted him that I ſuppoſed it would be very neceſſary for me to wait on the King; and I let him know that I thought my ſelf very ill uſed. He preſs'd me to ſtay until the D-ke's return, which he ſaid would be on Sunday night. I anſwered that I had diſcours'd with a King before now, and that I had not been uſed to be *skreen'd*: I thought it abſolutely neceſſary to go my ſelf; he preſs'd me again not to go, but to ſtay till the D—— return'd.

3. Mr. *V*—— asked me whether I had not been already with the King, or my Lord *Portland*:

land: I anſwer'd, No; I have apply'd only to the D-ke. Mr. *V*—— told me that the King had received notice, and did not thereupon go a Hunting. That's very well, replied I, no doubt but the D-ke has told him of it. I was then more violent to go to the King: He deſired me not to be ſo loud, but ſtay till the D-ke's return; upon which I parted very angry.

1. It may be here obſerv'd that the Conſpirators could not have ſtir'd out without my having notice; and that I was reſolved to have given it, does appear by my going down to *White-hall*, to communicate what came to my knowledg of that Day's Proceeding. It did not at that time appear to the World that the Plot was diſcovered.

2. Moreover, I was ſo well planted as to my Lodging * and places of eating or drinking, that it was impoſſible for them to have moved unobſerv'd. I was at the *Bear* Tavern in *Holborn* two or three times a day, which was directly againſt *Holms*'s Houſe; and I never fail'd

* *My uſual Lodging was at* White-hall, *but during the time that this Horrid Plot was in agitation, I lodg'd in* Red-Lyon *Square to avoid ſuſpicion, and ſeldom made uſe of the other Lodging, except to write my Letters in without diſturbance; yet my time was ſo precious, that I was obliged to write in a hurry.*

to

to go to that Houſe twice or thrice a day, and I conſtantly receiv'd Intelligence of the Party's Motions. Their Horſes ſtood in the Inns in and about *Holborn*, and I often drank at them too. I was as well placed to obſerve their Motions, as *Chambers* was at *Kenſington*; and my Intelligencer never diſappointed me; and if they had gone out, I always was in the way to have given immediate notice.

On Sunday Warrants were out: Mr. *V*—— told me that ſome Perſons had diſcovered the Affair, at which I was very joyful; ſaying, You ſee now that what I have acquainted you of this Deſign proves true.

A Letter to Mr. V—— *on Monday the* 24th *of* February 95. *from the* Back-ſtairs.

SIR,

I Will wait on you to morrow Morning; in the mean time if my L--d D-ke is in Town, let him be moved in the Affair I mention'd: a great regard muſt be had to the Coaſt in *Kent* and *Suſſex*. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt, *&c.*

Feb. 24. 95.

Tueſday

Tueſday from the Back-ſtairs.

S I R,

I Intended according to my Letter to have waited on you this Morning; I am now at the *Back-ſtairs* if you have any Commands, and I deſire Liberty to wait on my L--d D-ke in order to wait on the King. I am,

S I R,

Feb. 25. 95.

Your moſt, *&c.*

So ſoon as Mr. *V*—— receiv'd this Letter, he immediately came to me, and took me privately with him into the Office, it was in the Evening. He acquainted me that the D—— was there, and that I ſhould ſee him. When I was in Mr. *V*—— Cloſet, he order'd one of the Office to acquaint the D—— of *S*—— that I was with him: upon notice of it his Gr-ce immediately came to me in Mr. *V*—— Cloſet.

It may be here obſerved, that if *I had not acted according to my Inſtructions*, or had been wanting in any part of a good *Intelligencer*, I durſt not have preſumed to have deſired this *Interview*.

The

The Minutes with his Gr-ce the D— of S— on Tueſday the 25th *of* February *in the Secretary's Office.*

1. Your Gr-ce may ſee, ſaid I, that what I have ſo often writ does now evidently appear to be true. Mr. *V*— did me the juſtice to acquaint his Gr-ce that I had been with him about that *Buſineſs.*

2. Now, may it pleaſe your Gr-ce, is a good time to make it appear for the ſatisfaction of the Parliament and Nation, that an *Inſurrection* and *Invaſion* was and is alſo intended: which will appear by ſeizing thoſe Arms in *Warwickſhire* that I formerly gave you notice of; your Gr--ce hath by you an Inſtruction which I ſent you above a year ago. His Gr--ce made Anſwer, that *he did not know where he had laid it.* My L--d D-ke, I write nothing to your Gr-ce but what I keep Copies of by me for my juſtification. I have a Copy of that Inſtruction in my Cloſet in *White-Hall*, and I will immediately fetch it. His Gr-ce was pleaſed to ſay that the morrow would be time enough: in purſuance to Command I gave the next day to Mr. *V*— a Copy of that Inſtruction

ſtruction where the Arms lay in *Warwick-ſhire*, which had been ſo long concealed. *Vid. page* 51, 52.

3. I then told his Gr-ce that Mr. *Holmes* lay with me the night before, and I entertained him, and gave him a Guinea when he went away: Mr. *V*—— reply'd, Why did not you ſecure him? *Sir*, it is not my buſineſs, a Reward of a thouſand pound will take him; that's the way to deſtroy my Intelligence, my buſineſs is to preſerve it. My L--d D-ke ſaid I was in the right.

4. I then moved his Gr-ce for ſome Money; his Gr-ce ſaid I ſhould have ſome: the next day when Mr. *V*— met me at the *Back-ſtairs* for a Copy of the Inſtructions to ſeize the Arms, he brought me a Bill of 20 *l.* the ſame in date which I had before rejected *with his advice:* Upon which I was concern'd; he told me I ſhould have more, and then we parted. I moved his Gr-ce for 100 Guineas, and he did not ſeem to deny them.

It is here to be noted, that this 20 l. *Bill makes up the Sum of* 80 l. *which is all that ever I received from his Gr-ce: And there are now Arms lodg'd in the* Tower, *which were*

ſeiz'd purely by my Diſcovery, of a far greater Value.

5. At this Meeting my L—— D-ke, but more particularly Mr. *V*—, preſs'd me for *Hewet*, who was one of my Intelligencers, that they might have him; I told them I could not ſpare him as yet, but promis'd I would be anſwerable for him, and they were contented.

It may here be obſerv'd, that the Arms which I diſcover'd were not found in that part of the Houſe I directed to; they were removed to one Mr. Heywood's *at* Callidown: *and it was but reaſonable to believe they would be remov'd, when a Proclamation was iſſued out againſt Sir* William. *But the ſame quantity of Arms were return'd from* Callidown, *and buried by the Servants under a Garden Wall of Sir* William Parkyns's *Houſe in* Warwickſhire, *and were there found and ſeized, and, as I am inform'd, are now in his Majeſty's Stores in the* Tower. *This fully demonſtrated the intended Inſurrection not only to have been at that time, but likewiſe that it was intended, if matters had been agreed, at the time when I firſt diſcovered them. Sir* William *at his Trial confeſſed*

confeſſes that thoſe Arms had been there near two years.

The Inſurrection *or intended* Invaſion *has not been more* evidently *and* circumſtantially *prov'd, than by my diſcovering thoſe Arms,* which Diſcovery is purely owing to me.

General Paſſages.

I daily ſent to the Office, to know if they had any Commands for me, or any matter to inquire into that I could give an account of. What I was at any time asked, I let them know; and I was well receiv'd.

On *Sunday* the firſt of *March* I waited on Mr. *V*— at his Houſe; where he told me that my L—d D—ke very much deſired *Hewet*. Take my word, *Sir*, ſaid I, you ſhall have him. I then gave him Inſtructions to ſeize him, and accordingly he was taken the next day.

Mr. *V*— expreſs'd himſelf thus: *Sir*, you ſee what care we take to conceal you. I thank'd him, and told him I would never deſire any Preferment from the King, that I might for ever ſerve him; being confident, if I had a ſufficient Support for *Intelligence*, to break the neck of all ſucceeding Plots. *Sir*, the Diſcovery of this Plot hath been of great ſervice to the King, as well as the preſerving

his Life. And now if this Plot be rightly managed, it will ſettle the King very firmly in his *Throne*. I then deſired him to give my Duty to his Gr-ce, and let him know that he ſhould have *Hewet*, and that I never failed him in my *Promiſe*.

It is to be obſerv'd that I never had any Jealouſy, but that the King knew of all my Proceedings; and ſo I did not preſs to wait on his Majeſty as yet.

After *Hewet* was taken, Mr. *V*—— then deſired me to draw up Interrogatories to examine him upon: which I did as followeth. *Hewet* was taken about the 3*d* of *March* 1695.

Interrogat. per John Hewet, *Nephew to Mr.* Holmes, *and to Major* Holmes.

1. Whether the ſaid *Hewet* does know the Perſons mention'd in the Proclamation, *viz.* Sir *George Barclay*, *Chernock*, *Holmes*, *Porter*, &c. and alſo whether he hath not been imploy'd by them to appoint Meetings at Taverns, and carry them Letters to and from *France* as often as they were brought over by the *private Boat*?

2. Whe-

2. Whether he was not at ſeveral Conſultations, when Orders were brought from *France* to aſſaſſinate the King, or to carry him off?

3. Whether he does know of the Proviſion that was made for the executing that horrid Deſign, as the buying Horſes, Saddles, and other Furniture; and who were the perſons contributing or aſſiſting in the Expence, and in keeping the Horſes?

4. Whether he did know the Time and Place to act or perform the horrid Crime of aſſaſſinating the King?

5. Whether he was not the Perſon that carried out the Tickets for quartering the Perſons, and the Arms to each perſon concern'd in the aforemention'd intended Act; and how it came to paſs that *Saturday* the Day reſolv'd on to put their evil Deſign in execution, went off, and was deferr'd till another day, when the King went out to hunt or ſhoot; and whether one *Chambers* did not lodg at *Kenſington*, to give notice from time to time of the Day the King was to hunt?

6. Whether he knew of the Duke of *Berwick*'s being in Town, and whether Sir *George Barclay* was made a Major General by Commiſſion from the late King, and to command as the principal Actor or Commander in the Horrid Deſign?

7. Whether he does know the Names of the Perſons who have received Commiſſions from *France*, as Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Captains? *&c.*

8. Whether he does know where Horſes and Arms are concealed, that were for the putting in execution that Horrid Deſign, and alſo to go in to the *French*, had there been an *Invaſion?*

9. Whether he does know what Money was paid weekly or monthly to ſeveral of the Aſſaſſinators, and who bought the Horſes for them who had not Money of their own?

He muſt be told of ſome Perſons, as that they have confeſſed theſe things: for he carried the Letters to Perſons of Quality, Gentlemen, &c.

After

After this I put in ſeveral Inſtructions and Interrogatories to examine Capt. *Stow.* In a little time I did not find the Reception I expected: I went to viſit the D—ke, who was either ill or buſy. And then I writ the following Letters, to know if there was any Commands for me.

To Mr. V---.

SIR,

I Was laſt night to wait on you; and if you have any Commands, I am at the *Back-ſtairs.* I beg a time to be fix'd, that I may wait on my L—d D—ke: I aſſure you, I am very uneaſy, until I pay my Duty to his Gr-ce. This I may venture to ſay, I have done nothing to deſerve a Slight: what I have done may be of great ſervice. I have always ſaid, if I was to wait on the King, I can and will juſtify what I have done. I am,

SIR,

March 6.
95. Your, *&c.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Now think with my ſelf, I am like a Man that has beat the *Buſh*, and loſt the *Game*; for I do not find that kind uſage I expected, but ſlight. I cannot believe it proceeds from any thing but your Gr-ce's great hurry in Buſineſs: Nothing can give me ſatisfaction, but the liberty to wait on your Gr-ce to juſtify what I have done. This I am ſure of, that nothing I have either ſaid or done, but hath in a great meaſure prov'd true. And I have been the *firſt Intelligencer*, and nothing could have appear'd otherwiſe, if my Meaſures had been taken; therefore I humbly beg that I may have liberty to wait on your Gr-ce. I have run my ſelf in debt to ſerve his Majeſty; and a Settlement, I hope, will not be denied me, that I may be for ever ſerviceable. I am ſure, my L—d D—ke, it is not in your nature to be unkind to me, who have been truly juſt, by the *timely notice I have given*, as will appear by my Letters: and (tho to the prejudice of my own Family) I muſt be cruſh'd, if I do not wait on the King to know his Pleaſure, and what I may depend on. Whatever is further neceſſary for me to do, that I may not be known, I am ready to do when required, that may be of ſervice. I humbly give your

your Gr-ce moſt hearty thanks for the Secrecy I have hitherto met with. I beg to know by Mr. *V*—to morrow when I may wait on your Gr-ce. I am,

Your Gr-ce's

March 7. 1695.

Moſt, *&c.*

Immediately after I had ſent the aforeſaid Letter into the Office, finding that I was like to receive no Commands that night, I retired to my Lodging, which then was in *Red-Lyon-Square.* I had not been very long at home, before I heard a great knocking at the Door, and a mighty noiſe of People: the Gentlewoman of the Houſe, upon enquiry into the occaſion of ſo much *thundering* at her Door, ſoon found that there was a *Meſſenger* and ſeveral Soldiers, with a *Conſtable*, who demanded entrance into the Houſe; ſhe came and conſulted me in it; I adviſed her to open the Door: So ſoon as the Door was open, there *ruſhed* into my Room a *Meſſenger* and ſeveral Soldiers, with Swords and Piſtols in their hands; the *Meſſenger* told me that he was order'd to ſeize me, and immediately ſearch'd my Pockets and the Room for Papers: I was very much ſurprized at the thing, and reaſon'd the Affair with the *Meſſenger*, and let him know that he muſt be under ſome miſtake, for I was not a man

man in the leaſt ſuſpected, and that the laſt place I came from was the Secretary's Office. The *Meſſenger* replied that he was under no miſtake; for he was order'd to ſeize one Captain *Smith*, who lodg'd in that Houſe. Since you ſay ſo, ſaid I, to ſhew you that I am not afraid of any thing, I will ſeal up thoſe Papers you have got, *and ſubſcribe my Name upon them*: you muſt be miſtaken in your Man; for there is another Capt. *Smith*, who lives in a Street near this Square. The *Meſſenger* perceiving that I was no ways *daunted*, concluded I was not the Man. He leaves a Guard of Soldiers upon me, and then went to ſearch for the other *Smith* whom he ſoon found; then the *Meſſenger* was pleaſed to take off my *Guard*, and ſent back my Papers. The next day I went down to *Whitehall*, to ſecure my Papers in my Lodgings there from the like attempt, leſt I might again be ſo *ruffled*. I dined at *Whitehall* (it was on Sunday:) when I was at dinner, the *Meſſenger* came to me again, and told me I was the right *Smith*; that the other was ſet at liberty, and I muſt *inſtantly* go to the Office: when I came there, I asked the reaſon why I was thus uſed; *I never hid*, but either came, or daily ſent to know their Commands. At laſt it was told me that I muſt confront *Hewet*: Is this all? there needed not have been this trouble to oblige me; I

am

am always ready to ſerve the King; pray diſcharge me out of *Cuſtody*, and I will attend you at your hour. The *Meſſenger* was diſmiſt, and I was order'd to attend at ſix in the evening: Which I did, and confronted *Hewet* upon the foregoing *Interrogatories*.

General Paſſages.

1. After I had confronted *Hewet*, and underſtood Mr. *Ferguſon* was taken, I then deſired, by Letter to Mr. *V*——, dated the *9th* of *March*, to confront *Hewet* with *Ferguſon* before the Council; *Hewet* having been *Ferguſon*'s diſperſer of his Books, and knew moſt of his Concerns. I receiv'd no anſwer in that Affair.

2. When I put in *Interrogatories* to examine Captain *Stow*, Mr. *V*—— asked me if I would confront him? I reply'd, I was willing, provided the D-ke deſired it.

3. When Sir *William Parkyns* was condemned, I deſired Mr. *V*—— to let me have an Order to viſit him, by reaſon I thought it might be for the King's Service. He made me anſwer, that there was an Order that his Relations might ſee him. When I waited on the Lady *Parkyns*,

Parkyns, in order to ſee Sir *William*, ſhe told me, that notwithſtanding the General Order for his Relations to ſee him, there was a private one to the contrary, and no one could ſee him but her ſelf.

4. I then went to the D— of *S*—— to beg leave, and alſo to back a Petition which his Grace the Duke of *Norfolk* was pleaſed to promiſe me to preſent to his Majeſty, that Sir *William*'s Relations might have leave to ſee him; alledging therein, that it would be for the King's Service.

Mr. *V*— acquainted me, that my L—d D— was ill, and that it was not convenient for me to appear in the matter. I anſwer'd, that I was ſure it would be for his Majeſty's Service, for by this means I could get a direct Intelligence from *France*. I could not obtain it.

A Copy of that Letter which I ſent to his Gr-ce, which occaſion'd Mr. V— *to come to me.*

May it pleaſe your Gr-ce;

I Do in the humbleſt manner beg I may be admitted to your Gr-ce's preſence, and that immediately; and I doubt not but what

I

I have to offer will be pleaſing. My Credit is low with the *Male-contents*, and now an opportunity offers it ſelf, whereby I may recover my Credit, and for ever have a good Correſpondence directly from *France*. One of the things I have to propoſe, I doubt not but to get it ſeconded by the Duke of *Norfolk*; which if granted, will give the Party no jealouſy of me, having had the honour to know his Grace for many Years.

I am,

March 30. 1696. Your Gr-ce's

Moſt, *&c.*

The Lady *Parkyns* apply'd her ſelf to me, by order of Sir *William*, to deſire me to ſollicite the Duke of *Norfolk* to get him a Reprieve; which 'tis plain ſhews he had no jealouſy of me: I told this to Mr. *V*—. I cannot omit in this place to acquaint the Reader with what Zeal that moſt Noble Duke eſpouſed this Affair, when I told him that I was in hopes that a Reprieve, and liberty for his Relations to ſee him, might probably work upon Sir *William*'s *Temper* to make an ingenuous *Confeſſion*, which would be greatly for the King's

King's Service. The thoughts of that ſo *animated* his Grace, that he ſhew'd himſelf very active and ready, and nothing was wanting on his part.

After many Letters, and a moſt tireſome attendance, I ſaw the D— of *S*—— by chance. Upon my making application to him, I received only this Anſwer, That *he had been very kind to me already.* I anſwer'd, that I had not yet receiv'd any Kindneſs.

OBSERVATIONS.

Before the laſt time when I waited on the D— of *S*——, I ſhew'd my late Colonel the Duke of *Norfolk* ſome of my Letters which concerned the Plot; they were thoſe which diſcover the whole Deſign, *viz.* the Letter which mentions the Perſons Names, and the manner of putting the ſaid horrid Deſign in execution. Upon which his Grace was infinitely pleaſed, when he found I had been ſo faithful and ſerviceable to his Majeſty and his Government; and very much wonder'd that I was not preſented to the King. I told him that the D— of *S*—— was full of buſineſs, and humbly begg'd his Grace would be pleaſed to

to do me that Favour. His Grace was pleaſed to ſay he would; but firſt order'd me to wait on the D— of *S*——, to know when his Gr-ce would introduce me to the King's Preſence, and that if his Gr-ce's Buſineſs did not permit him time, that the Duke of *Norfolk* would do me that honour. In obedience to this advice, I waited on the D— of *S*——, but could get no opportunity to ſpeak to him fully of my Buſineſs, and only receiv'd the ſlight Anſwer before related.

When I acquainted the Duke of *Norfolk* what Anſwer I had receiv'd, his Grace was amazed to find me ſo ill uſed for ſo great Services: his Grace was pleaſed to give me the ſeaſonable advice to preſerve my Papers, and to make an Intereſt with the Earl of *Portland*, the Earl of *Rumney*, or Mr. *Keppell* now Earl of *Albermarle*, and his Grace would ſecond any one of them, and give an account of me. I waited on Mr. *Keppell* to ſollicite him to deliver to the King the following Letter, together with a Copy of my Letters of the 14*th* and 19*th* of *February* 1695. which related to the Plot. My Lord *Albermarle* took the Letters; but the next day when I waited on him again, he returned them, and told me that it was then too late, for the King was a going within a day or two to *Flanders*.

What paſſed between the Right Honourable the then Earl of Monmouth *Lord of the Bedchamber in waiting, and my ſelf upon this occaſion, need not be repeated here, ſince the Reader may find it in the Introduction.*

A Copy of that Letter which was intended for the King.

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty;

HAving had the honour to command in *Windſor*-Caſtle, when your Majeſty firſt came into *England*, and to ſerve your Majeſty as a Captain under his Grace the Duke of *Norfolk*, in the Regiment he raiſed for your Majeſty's Service: And being related to ſome, and acquainted with others whom I juſtly ſuſpected to be your Majeſty's Enemies, I have, as in Duty bound, endeavour'd to dive into the deepeſt of their Deſigns; and accordingly have given an account of their Proceedings for fifteen months paſt, to his Gr-ce the D— of *S*——, your Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State. As for inſtance, How they had provided Arms in *December* 1694. and the Place where they were concealed. I have diligently

ligently traced their Motions ever ſince, and acquainted his Gr-ce with them gradually, and particularly of their Deſign againſt your Majeſty's Perſon; and the Names of them that were to have been *Principal Actors therein*, as will appear by the two Letters I have incloſed, which I ſent to his Gr-ce. I likewiſe hinted to his Gr-ce to ſeize the Arms that were concealed in *Warwickſhire* for the *Invaſion*. I have ſeveral other matters of *moment* to offer to your Majeſty's conſideration, whenever your Majeſty pleaſes to command my attendance. I am now ruin'd by contracting Debts for Intelligence, (having receiv'd but eighty pounds from his Gr-ce) unleſs your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to grant me your protection, and ſuch a Support as I may not become a *ſcorn* to your Majeſty's Enemies.

That your Majeſty may have a long and *proſperous* Reign, ſhall be the daily Prayer of him, that humbly begs to know your Majeſty's Pleaſure, and leave to ſubſcribe himſelf,

Your Majeſty's

April 30. 1696.

Moſt humble, *&c.*

On the 19*th of* May *I writ the following Letter to his Gr-ce the D— of S—— for my*

Penſion; and I receiv'd Anſwer, that he would ſee me the next morning. According to comniand I went to wait on his Gr-ce, and then was order'd to attend him as the next day at nine in the morning. In obedience to that order I went again, which was on the 21ſt of May 1696. *After I had ſent up my Name, Mr.* V—— *came to me, and took me with him into an inner Parlour. The Minutes of that Day are inſerted after the Letter to his Gr-ce.*

May it pleaſe your Exc-ll-cy;

HAving receiv'd many Aſſurances of the continuance of your Gr-ce's Favour and Protection, I am emboldened humbly to beg your Exc-ll-cy will order me *that quarterly Allowance you were pleaſed by your Let- to aſſure me of.* I cannot doubt but your Exc-ll-cy will protect me from becoming a Scorn and Deriſion to his Majeſties Enemies, which my preſent Neceſſities will expoſe me to, without your Exc-ll-cy's immediate Aſſiſtance, having ſpent my All in endeavouring to prevent that *fatal Stroke* deſign'd againſt his Majeſty's Perſon and Government. And I aſſure your Exc-ll-cy (being greater with the Party now than ever) that I ſhall make it my buſineſs *to circumvent*

all

all their future Endeavours, and give your Exc-ll-cy frequent Accounts of ſuch Intrigues and Cabals as they are hereafter engag'd in, that I may ever juſtly entitle my ſelf to the honour of being

Your Exc-ll-cy's

May 19. 1696. Moſt, *&c.*

The Minutes with Mr. V——, *at his Gr-ce the* D— *of* S—— *Houſe*, May 21. 1696.

1. Mr. *V*—— told me, that *he wonder'd at my coming there.* I anſwer'd, that I came by appointment from the D-ke to receive his Gr-ce's Anſwer to my Letter. He was pleaſed to ſay, that he had heard it diſcours'd that I intended to accuſe the D-ke; as alſo that I had declar'd, that *I was the firſt Perſon that diſcover'd the Plot*; and as if the D-ke went out of Town upon it, and kept the matter concealed, and never acquainted the King with it. And that he believ'd I now came not out of love or reſpect to the D-ke, or with any intention to continue my Friendſhip, and adviſed me to have a care, for the D-ke was a great Man.

2. In anſwer, I confeſs'd I did declare I was the firſt Intelligencer of Affairs for fifteen months, and that I told it to a Perſon in the Government, one whom I underſtood to be a Zealot for it: And at the ſame time I gave him ſome Inſtructions to take Sir *George Barclay* and Major *Holmes*. But I did not pretend to accuſe the D-ke; then believing that his Gr-ce only concealed me according to promiſe, that I might not be expoſed by being an Evidence. And I did not declare my ſelf till after I was confronted with *Hewet*, and he was not reſtrain'd from writing.

3. Mr. *V*— told me, I had induſtriouſly left Copies of Papers in my Cloſet, with a Deſign they might be taken on purpoſe to expoſe his Gr-ce; and that I could not expect great matters upon ſuch uſage, and that I had a deſign to accuſe his Gr-ce. And then threaten'd me, and very much queſtion'd me, whether I did not make it my buſineſs to expoſe his Gr ce; that he had heard of ſuch a Report. But the D-ke, he ſaid, did not believe I would deal ſo by him. And then run on to leſſen my Services, as that I had only a *dim ſight* of things, and they could never make any thing of my Letters.

4. In

4. In anſwer to the Papers which were left in my Cloſet; I acquainted him that I had been hunted from Lodging to Lodging, and my Circumſtances were very hard to be left unprovided, and expoſed to all Dangers. The Landlord of the Houſe where I lay, when he underſtood I was Nephew to Sir *William Parkyns*, told me and my Servant, that there were Warrants out againſt me, and that ſo dangerous a Man muſt not lodg there. When I went away to avoid being taken, I took with me all or moſt of my Papers; and it was unknown to me that any were left behind. As to his Threats, I told him I did not value them, declaring that they had undone me for ſerving the Government. I am a Gentleman, continued I, and do not ſtand in fear of any Duke or Lord in Chriſtendom; for what I have done is honeſt and juſt. I have ſerv'd the King from the firſt faithfully; and *at the rate I am uſed*, no Prince hereafter will have any Perſon to ſerve him. And ſince you have undone me, I do not value Life or Liberty: Of all the men in the World, I did not expect ſuch uſage from the D-ke, for whom I have always had a profound honour and reſpect, and ſtill have. As to an Accuſation, I aſſured him, I never intended it, which evidently appeared by my making this freſh Application to him: and

what I had writ for *was but what I had his hand for.* Then as to my Services, I told Mr. *V*— that what I had done was moſt valuable, as being the earlieſt, and that I acted purely for the *preſervation* of the *Nation.* What others have done did not proceed from a good Principle, but upon *diſguſts* and *fear* of *each other.* And laſtly, as to my dim-ſighted Letters, I preſumed they were as plain and as full to be underſtood as thoſe *Chairs* are known to be *Chairs* (I then pointed to the *Chairs* in the Room.)

As firſt, I have traced the matter down to the time, both as to the *Deſcent*, and alſo the intended *Aſſaſſination*; and I gave an account on the fifth of *January*, that I was employ'd to know the number of Guards, and to get a Liſt of the Forces, and Colonels names, *&c.* And I further told him that I *perſonally* acquainted my L—d D--ke of the Deſign againſt the King on the tenth of *February* in the Room above, (pointing to the Room.)

Sir, continued I, you cannot forget the Letter that contains the whole Deſign; as that it was concluded to be put in execution with the firſt opportunity. The Perſons Names, *(viz.)* Sir *George Barclay*, Major *Holmes*, Capt. *Chernock*, *Porter*, *Chambers* and *Boyſe*, with an *&c.* and their *Titles.* You cannot forget this; which Mr. *V*— did own. *Sir*, I am better vers'd in the Affairs of the World

 than

than to be ſo much a fool to write ſuch a Letter, and ſign it too, if I could not have made it out; if the Secretary did not believe it, he ſhould have puniſhed me: you cannot but own that I have writ nothing but what is come to paſs, *&c.*

5. Mr. *V*— told me that Sir *William Parkyns* and *Chernock*, &c. did not truſt me.

That is apparently otherwiſe, ſaid I, for how could I have given an Account of the Arms ſo long ago, and ſince that of the Journey to *Leiceſter?* Beſides, I was the only Perſon at the concealing the Arms, *&c.* and I was employ'd by Sir *William* to treat with Mr. *Cr-v-n* to accept a Lieut. Colonel's Command.

As to Mr. *Chernock*, he was my School-fellow and great Acquaintance; and don't my Letters to the D-ke declare that *Chernock* was to buy my Horſe, Furniture? *&c.* If it was doubted, why was it not enquired into then? Laſtly, as to my appearing as an Evidence, my Agreement was to the contrary, and I was not deſired to be a Witneſs. I further told him that the Arms which were ſeized in *Warwickſhire* were exact in number, according to the account which I gave in fifteen Months before, when I moved for the ſeizing of them; and thoſe Arms, ſaid I, you now have.

6. After I had argued Affairs in all Particulars, ſtanding upon the merits of my Services, he was pleaſed to repeat again the Accuſation, and my Obligations to the D-ke, and whether I was not upon ſome Deſign, and told me again that he heard ſuch a Report. I then deſired Mr. *V*— to tell me what he had heard in the plaineſt ſenſe, and what I had done I would own. He repeated the matter as before related, and I own'd as before: Only I added this Particular; You may remember, ſaid I, that you asked me in the Office before the Earl of *M--cl--ſf--ld*, whether I had owned my Intelligence: I confeſs'd it, and did declare, if it was not convenient, I would be more *cautious* for the *future*. But I did never ſay that I would accuſe the D——. After this I let him know that I was ſincere according to the purport of my Letter, and gave him Reaſons why I apply'd then, really believing that my L—d D— had a kindneſs for me, and kept me ſo long in ſuſpence, only that the World might not diſcover *that I was the firſt Intelligencer*, that I might the better continue my Service. And I aſſur'd him I did eſteem the D— of *S*— more than any other of the Nobility I was acquainted with; otherwiſe I would not have apply'd to him.

7. Mr.

7. Mr. *V*—— told me I had but one way to give his Gr-ce ſatisfaction, which was by ſomething in writing. I reply'd *that I was the firſt Intelligencer*, and that I wonder'd I did not ſee his Gr-ce when I was ſent for. He was pleaſed to tell me that his Gr-ce was ill, and it was only his *Indiſpoſition* that hindred his Gr-ce from ſeeing me, and that I would do well to give his Gr-ce ſatisfaction. I anſwer'd Mr. *V*— that I came to pay my ſervice to his Gr-ce: And is this all the Anſwer to my Letter, ſaid I? Then I told him they had undone me, and I could not ſtay in Town; however I hoped they would allow me a Protection. Mr. *V*—— reply'd, I need not be ſo haſty, and intimated the D——'s kindneſs to me. I anſwer'd that I had not yet received any; what is now and then 20 *l.* a Sum that is of little uſe to me? When I came away, I deſired Mr. *V*— to give my Duty to his Gr-ce, and that I would be always ready to ſerve him.

That there ſhould be nothing wanting on my part, I writ the following Letter to his Gr-ce.

My L—d D--ke;

WHEN your Exc-ll--cy is oppreſs'd with buſineſs, I can hardly hope to ſpeak to your ſelf, but believe your Gr-ce will not

not think it unreaſonable, that after all my endeavours to ſerve the Government, I ſhould at leaſt be able to ſubſiſt: for any thing of Recompence that I might expect from your Favour, I willingly ſhall attend the King's return; and only deſire your Exc-ll--cy will appoint the payment of the Allowance *you were pleaſed to order me quarterly*, of which there is due half a year. I trouble your Gr-ce with as few words as I can, and only neceſſity makes me write theſe, which I hope your Exc-ll--cy will excuſe from

July 14. 96. Your Exc-ll--cy's

Moſt, *&c.*

Some REASONS *modeſtly offer'd to believe that this Correſpondence was never made known to the* King.

1. It is preſumed that the Accounts which I have given in, have not been laid before the King or his Cabinet-Council: if they had, certainly his Majeſty would have perſonally known me, or at leaſt have order'd me Money to diſpoſe and lay out, as I ſaw neceſſary, for the preventing ſo horrid a Deſign, and the involving a whole Nation in blood.

2. If

2. If I had been known, it's reasonable to believe, that upon Mr. *Pendergrass* and Mr. *De la Rue*'s coming in, I should have been sent for to know if I had known any thing of them, or believ'd them to be of the number of the *Conspirators*.

3. That if I had been known to the King, or my Accounts gave in, Mr. *Pendergrass* and Mr. *De la Rue*'s Informations of the matter would have been immediately believ'd, without reasoning the Affair with them: His Majesty having been before prepared, by the daily Informations which I gave in of that Design to his Secretary of State.

4. That if my Informations had been given in, his Majesty had not then so great an Obligation to Mr. *Pendergrass*, having been before inform'd of the matter; then he and the rest of the Conspirators which fell in, would have been looked upon, as they really were, Enemies to his Majesty's Person and Government: And what they then did would have been accounted to proceed more out of fear or jealousy of each other, than out of a real Love or Affection to his Majesty's Person and Government.

5. If my Accounts were given in, certainly the King would have known, and esteem'd me

me the *firſt* and *principal Diſcoverer* of that horrid Plot, who had made it my buſineſs to ſearch into the Secrets of his Enemies, purely for his Majeſty's ſafety, and the preſervation of his Government; and have had my Services laid before him, by which it would have appear'd, that I had traced all the Deſigns of his Enemies, not only as to the *Deſcent*, but alſo the *Aſſaſſination*, and *Inſurrection*, which was demonſtrated by the Arms that were ſeiz-ed, and the Accounts of the *Diviſion* of the *Faction* into *Parties*, and confirming the *Lancaſhire* Plot. And his Majeſty would have been aſſured of my Ability for ever to ſerve his Perſon and Government.

REASONS *to believe that the D---- of S---- was very well ſatisfy'd with my Integrity and Ability to ſerve the Goment: And that he did not doubt the truth of what I writ.*

1. That if his Gr-ce had not believ'd the Accounts I gave him, as in the firſt Minutes, he would not have immediately employ'd me, or have been ſatisfy'd without a Recommendation from the Duke of *Norfolk*, which I offer'd; nor have ſettled a Method for his Correſpondence with me.

2. If

2. If his Gr-ce had miſtruſted the Truth of my Diſcovery of the Arms in *December* 1694. he would then have puniſh'd me; whereas it is evident he believ'd that matter by his ſending a Bill of 20 *l.* tho ſhort of his *great Promiſes*, as appears by a Letter under his Gr-ce's *own hand*, dated the 11*th* of *December* 1694.

3. If the D—— of *S*—— had not believ'd me, he would have rejected all the Letters that came from me; otherwiſe he would not have promiſed to recommend me to the King at a ſecond Meeting, as he had done before.

4. In *December* 95. upon making a Viſit to the D——, if his Gr-ce had not thought me able to ſerve the King, he would not have immediately engag'd my Service again, and the next day ſent me by my Servant a Bill of 20 *l.* with an Aſſurance under his Gr-ce's *own hand to continue that Sum to me quarterly, with a Promiſe of a Reward for every particular Service diſcover'd by my means.*

5. If his Gr-ce had not believ'd my Account of the *Deſcent*, and what I hinted on the 5*th* of *January* 95. and the Accounts I gave into Mr. *V*—— of *Holmes*, the *Deſcent*, *&c.* certainly he would never have ſent me on the 20*th* of *January* a Bill of 20 *l.* by Mr. *V*——.

6. If

6. If they had doubted whether I could have help'd them to ſeize *Holmes*, as it was once agreed on, why did not they exact that Perſon? I was willing to have him taken, and they went off. It is paſt all queſtion they believ'd I could have perform'd my Promiſe, otherwiſe they would not have continued my Service.

7. If his Gr-ce had doubted the truth of the *Deſcent*, which I gave him an account of in Perſon on the 10*th* of *February* 95. and alſo the Deſign againſt the King's Perſon, *&c.* why did not he then queſtion the truth, but on the contrary declare his belief of that matter, and then promiſe me Money to provide for my going on in buſineſs?

8. That if they did not believe the truth of my Relations, why did they ſo often treat with, and ſend me Letters, *with promiſes of Reward?*

9. If they did not believe my Intelligence, why did they exact a more full Account, and ſend 20 *l.* in order to equip me; and upon repreſenting that Sum too little, to deſire to know what was neceſſary?

10. After the Diſcovery of the Plot, if I had not all along given them in a true and

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an exact Account of all Particulars; as the *Conſpirators Names*; *the Deſigns to be put into execution with the firſt Opportunity*, &c. Why did not they at that time puniſh me, for being wanting in my Intelligence? *&c.* From thence it is reaſonable to conclude that I did give them in very *full* and *early* Accounts of that *execrable* Plot.

11. That if I had not ſo done, it is moſt certain his Gr-ce would not have receiv'd me after into his Office, or have taken further Inſtructions from me for the ſeizing the Arms in *Warwickſhire*, and upon my requeſt ſent me the next day by Mr. *V*—— a Bill of 20 *l.*

OBJECTION.

If it ſhould be *objected*, That ſeveral of the above-written Letters they never receiv'd, and that theſe Letters are *forg'd* and *new*; or that they never receiv'd ſuch Accounts as are here incerted.

In Anſwer, let them produce the Letters that occaſion'd his Gr-ce to write, and alſo thoſe Letters Mr. *V*—— anſwered by command from his Gr-ce; and then it will *evidently appear, paſt all Contradiction, that theſe are true Copies of the Letters now in their Hands.*

And as to thoſe Letters which are not anſwer'd, it will appear to any unprejudiced Perſon

Perſon that they were alſo receiv'd; it being obſervable that they run all upon the ſame Affairs with thoſe anſwered.

For the further ſatisfaction of the Reader I do here proteſt, as I have already done in the Preface, that theſe *Memoirs* are *compiled* from an *Original Manuſcript*, which was writ by the advice of a Friend from the original Letters, above ſeven or eight Months before they were deliver'd into the *Houſe* of *Lords*: Where the Reader may alſo compare theſe *Memoirs* with the Originals, which are now lodg'd in that *Houſe*. But too much has been ſaid upon this Head already.

As nothing is of more conviction, than *a Note under a Man's own hand*; ſo nothing can be more expected to prove the truth of this Correſpondence than the Letters under their own hands. From whence it may be concluded, that they received all the aforeſaid Accounts which were given in by the ſeveral Letters in theſe *Memoirs*.

In ſhort, here is as *evident* Proof, and as many *Circumſtances* of the truth of this *Correſpondence*, as the nature of ſo *ſecret* an Affair will admit.

THE END.

THE REASONS

Why I correſponded with Mr. JOHN HEWET:

In a Letter to a Friend, to convince him that I never received any News that was written from the Poſt-Boy.

SIR,

IT has been maliciouſly reported that the great Services I have done the King and his Government, are but trivial and of little value: And that I received my Intelligence from one who made it his buſineſs to collect News out of the *Poſt-Boy*, with no other deſign than to get Money out of me, under a pretence of having received the ſame from *France*: That he was a perſon altogether ignorant in Affairs, and was no ways let into any conſiderable Secret. All this has frequently been urged to invalidate my Services; upon which Subject I have a fair occaſion to expatiate, if I thought my *Memoirs* had not done

it ſufficiently to my hands. I could likewiſe inform you of all the perſons Names from whom I have had Intelligence, before and after I came acquainted with Mr. *J. H.* but at this time I ſhall only endeavour to convince you that I never had to do with any ſuch perſon, who made it his buſineſs to write News out of the *Poſt-Boy*.

I will here give you an account of what I receiv'd at ſeveral times from Mr. *Hewet*, relating to the laſt Plot, which I will throw into as little room as is poſſible: As alſo the reaſons which induced me to enter into a Correſpondence with him, together with the time and place where it was my fortune to be acquainted with him. Towards the Concluſion of this Relation I will anſwer all the Objections, which I ſuppoſe can be raiſed againſt me for uſing him as my Inſtrument. But firſt of all I muſt inform you that I did not correſpond with him without permiſſion. So then when you have run over the whole Proceedings, I make no queſtion but they will give you that ſatisfaction, as to judg he was a perſon not altogether unacquainted with the *deepeſt Myſteries*, being intruſted by the moſt *eminent* Leaders of the *Jacobite Faction*, and conſequently a fit perſon to be entertain'd by me upon this occaſion.

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One of the *principal* Motives which induced me to a Correſpondence with Mr. *John Hewet*, was to find out the *Labyrinths* and *myſterious* Windings of a Man that will be *eternally famous* in all the *Annals* of *Conſpirators*, called *Uncle*, otherwiſe *F-rg-ſ-n*. As 'tis impoſſible for this *Luciferian Prieſt*, or *Salamander*, to live out of the Fire, it made me the more ambitious to entertain his *Confident*, that I might trace his *Macchiavellian* Intrigues; and in ſearching after them I had all the juſt Suſpicions in the world to make me conclude that I had found an *old Roman* Agent wrapt up in a *Geneva* Charter, according to the received Maxims of the Church of *Rome*, which makes no difficulty to give her *Emiſſaries* permiſſion to put up what *Colours*, and wear what *Diſguiſes* they pleaſe, *provided* it advances the Intereſt of the *Holy See*. This *Compoſition* of *Iniquity*, who always acted in *Maſquerade*, and indeed is a *Bane* to all *Civil* Societies and Governments, tho he has proved the unhappy occaſion of bringing ſeveral of his Companions to an infamous *Exit*, yet by what fate I know not, has all along made a ſhift to keep himſelf out of the *Briars*, like the *Cat* who made uſe of the *Monkey's* Foot to pull the Cheſnuts out of the Fire, in order to ſave her own from burning. I cannot but *admire* at the Folly of the *Malecontents*, that they ſhould be ſo *ſtupid* as

to take into their Faction ſuch a notorious *Hypocrite*, upon his *cajoling* them to believe that he could do them extraordinary Service by his *Billingſgate* Stile, which he *pretended* had work'd ſuch *Wonders* in the two *preceding Reigns*. For his Books are generally *ſtuft* with ſuch *fulſom* and *notorious* Untruths, that they cannot ſtand the *Teſt* of any *reaſonable* man; he ſculks in a Corner to write, and then comes out *incognito*, being conſcious to himſelf that *R. F.* in the Title-page is ſufficient to diſcredit whatever drops from ſo malicious a Pen. When this walking *Amſterdam* of Religions was juſtly ſpew'd out of the Government, he made his firſt flight to the *Melfordian* Faction, and only herded with thoſe hot-headed Men, they beſt ſuting his *Genius*; for Plotting, and Faction, is his darling Study and Delight: in ſhort, he is turbulent and uneaſy in all Governments. Whilſt the late horrid Plot was in *Agitation*, I could not believe upon the firſt Intelligence I received of that Matter, that there were to be found ſo *great* a *number* of *Villains* as were thought neceſſary to execute ſo *barbarous* a Deſign. I was amaz'd at firſt, when I underſtood the *number* roſe ſo *high*, and ſeized with *admiration* that one *Age* ſhould produce ſo many *Monſters*; but I ceas'd to *wonder*, when I was informed that *Uncle* was often in their *infernal Cabals*, and entertained his *Diſciples*

ciples with *preparatory* Diſcourſes on the Subject of *King-killing Doctrines*, to work them up to a *Temper* to receive any *Impreſſion*. In order to execute this *damnable* Deſign, this *Firebrand* (as his Confident told me) writ that ſcurrilous Pamphlet called the *Depredation*-Book, to prepare the way to it, by caſting therein moſt *ſcandalous* and lying *Reflections* on His Majeſties Perſon and Government. But what is more *execrable*, he had alſo a Book in *embrio*, which was to have *ſanctify'd* the *Villany*, in caſe the Conſpirators had ſucceeded in that *horrid Deſign*. I muſt beg your Pardon, *Sir*, if you think this borders too much upon the common *Topicks* of *Satyr* and *Invective*; and that I have ſuffer'd my ſelf to be carried too far by my Reſentments: for I muſt freely own to you that I am not able to be Maſter of my uſual *Temper*, when ſuch a *finiſhed Syſtem* of Wickedneſs comes in my way.

To juſtify this Aſſertion, about the latter part of *September*, or the beginning of *October* 1695, I was at Sir *William Parkyns*'s Houſe at *Buſhey* in *Hertfordſhire*, where I came acquainted with Mr. *Holmes*, commonly called *Old-England*, who had been there all that Summer. I had not been at Sir *William*'s Houſe above two or three days, before Mr. *John Hewet*, Nephew to the ſaid *Holmes*, came from *London* with Letters for Sir *William* and his Uncle *Holmes*. The ſaid Letters came from abroad,

with the news of Affairs that were then stirring. The said *Hewet* at that time also brought to Sir *William* and Mr. *Holmes* a Bundle of *Libels*, intituled, *Advice to the Country in their electing of Members for the ensuing Parliament.* These Libels were then to be dispers'd about the Country.

Sir *William*, after he had read one of these Pamphlets, told Mr. *Holmes* and me, that he did not much approve of the Book. Upon this I was curious to know the Author: Sir *William* frankly told me that it was *F-rg-s-n.* I seem'd amaz'd, and replied, that *I could hardly believe that F-rg-s-n was one of us.* Sir *William*, and Mr. *Holmes* both told me, that he was a *true Convert*, and did K. *James* great service by his writing: that he was reconciled to the King, and much in his favour; that he had brought several over to the late King's Interest, and had a Pardon for his former Offences.

Sir *William Parkyns*'s House being full at this time, he desired me to admit of Mr. *Hewet* to take part of a Bed with me, letting me know that he was a sensible young man, and one that he had a great value for.

Finding Mr. *Hewet* thus trusted and esteemed, and also that he might be very useful to me in the *Secret Service*, I immediately entred into an acquaintance with him, and found him very inclinable, and also able to resolve me any

any Queſtion which I put to him, or had at any time before receiv'd from others in obſcure terms. Now being intimate with him, I deſired to know how long *F-rg-ſ-n* had been one of our Party, and whether he was really the Author of the Pamphlet he brought to Sir *William*; and wherein *F-rg-ſ-n* had done, or could do us any ſervice, he having been one who was always accounted one of King *James*'s Enemies, and came over with the preſent King: *For my part*, ſaid I, *I rather believe him to be a Spie than a Friend.*

Mr. *Hewet* anſwer'd, that he had been a conſiderable time of the Party, and had written ſeveral bitter and *ſatyrical* things againſt the Government, and at that time was forc'd to hide, by reaſon they ſuppoſed him to be the Author of ſeveral Pamphlets lately publiſhed, which they concluded to be his by the Stile. Mr. *Hewet* then named to me a Dialogue *between the K. the E— of* P—, *and Madam* V—, and *Glenco*'s *Caſe*, with others which I have now forgot, written all by *F-rg-ſ-n*, as alſo the Pamphlet he then brought down. He further told me, there was but one beſides himſelf that knew where *F-rg-ſ-n* lodg'd, that he never went out but in the night; that if the Government found his Lodgings, they would find him amidſt his Books and Papers, for ſays he, *he is always a writing*. I asked *Hewet* how he came

to be intruſted by *F-rg-ſ-n*, and for what reaſon. He told me that it was his Uncle who got *F-rg-ſ-n* reconcil'd to the late King; and that they, mentioning his Uncle and himſelf, were the Perſons who diſperſed and ſold his Books for him. And *F-rg-ſ-n* often order'd him to throw his Books into Noble-mens Houſes. That this was one way by which *F-rg-ſ-n* ſerv'd the late King, that being a Man of Intrigue and Intereſt, ſeveral Perſons made Terms by him with the late King, vvho vvould not truſt any other Perſon. Having at this time this account of *F-rg-ſ-n*, and of other Affairs, as particularly the manner and way of conveying of Letters to and from *France* by the private Boat, which vvere deliver'd here by his Uncle *Holmes* and himſelf; the canting Names in which they were directed, being only known to them, he vvent on and told me, that he had both the *Cant* and *Key* to Colonel *Fountain*'s Letters, as well as of the Superſcription. He likewiſe promiſed to let me have one of the firſt Pamphlets that *F-rg-ſ-n* writ for the future; and if any were vvritten before I came to Town, he vvould take care to ſend one down to me. I gave him a Note how to vvrite to me, and took a Direction from him vvhere to find him vvhen I came to *London*. He had ſo great a confidence in me, as to ſecure himſelf in my Lodgings

vvhen

when his Name was in the Proclamation, *&c.*

The latter end of *November*, or the beginning of *December* following, I came to Town, and the very next day I went to ſee Mr. *Hewet*. I deſired him to get me a private Lodging; he took me to a Barber's Houſe in *King-ſtreet Bloomsbury*, and told me it was a private place, by reaſon there was a Back-door into *Kings-gate* Street, that look'd only upon Stables and Coach-houſes. That the Landlord was a *Papiſt*, and that *F-rg-ſ-n* had lodg'd there a conſiderable time. The man of the Houſe was very free to let me have the Lodging; and then asked Mr. *Hewet*, *how the Gentleman did that lodg'd there before, to whom he ſo often came?* I asked *Hewet* who that Gentleman was: He reply'd, it was Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n*, and that he took that Lodging for him; and alſo was employ'd to take private Lodgings for ſeveral other Perſons who came from *France*: Being confirmed by this Circumſtance, that *Hewet* was really employ'd by *F-rg-ſ-n*, I was alſo deſirous to be fully ſatisfy'd whether Mr. *Holmes* his Uncle, and himſelf, were really the Perſons employ'd in receiving and delivering out the Letters as they came from *France* by the private Boat. To know the truth of this, I viſited Mr. *Holmes*, with whom I came acquainted at Sir *William Parkyns*'s Houſe, and who knew I was intruſted

by

by Sir *William* in the Buſineſs of the * *Deſcent* then intended, and of the *Toloun* Fleet's coming from *Breſt*. We drank the Healths of the Commanders of that Fleet, and wiſh'd them a good Voyage. Mr. *Holmes* likewiſe knew that Sir *William* ſent his Nephew *Hewet* to me, within two or three days after I came to Town, to conſult with, and give me Authority to treat with, and perſwade Mr. *Cr-v-n*, now L—d *Cr——n*, to accept of a Lieutenant Colonel's Command, who was my great Acquaintance, and a Neighbour to Sir *William* in *Warwickſhire*. 'Tis true, I undertook the Buſineſs, that Sir *William* might not be jealous of me, but did not preſs the matter much to the Gentleman, that he might not engage. At this viſit Mr. *Holmes* and I went to the *Bear*-Tavern in *Holborn*, where we took a Glaſs together: I daily drank with him, and others, at that Tavern, and very often alone. By this means I ſoon was very intimate with him, and ſhew'd him a Letter which I purpoſed to have ſent to the Duke of *Berwick*, with whom I was acquainted, to beg the Favour of his Grace to intercede with the King to grant me leave to come into *France*. I deſired Mr. *Holmes*'s O-

* *I was confirm'd in the Buſineſs of the* Deſcent *from Mr.* Holmes, *who alſo acquainted me with that Matter.*

pinion

pinion of the Letter, and how I might ſend it to the Duke. He corrected the Letter for me, and told me that he would ſend it to *France*. Some time after I preſs'd him again to ſend my Letter, it being fairly written: he then told me, we might in a little time ſee my Friend in *England*; and if the *Deſcent* which was intended ſhould fail, he would then ſend it to *France*. I acquainted *Hewet* that I had ſhew'd his Uncle *Holmes* a Letter, which I deſign'd to ſend to the Duke of *Berwick*, and the Anſwer I receiv'd from him. *Hewet* reply'd, his Uncle was in the right, for a *Deſcent* would certainly be; but if I would have the Letter ſent, he would put it into the Packet, and direct it in the *Cant* name himſelf. Now being ſatisfy'd of the truth, that theſe two Perſons did convey the Letters to and from *France*; and finding that what I had receiv'd from him relating to other Affairs was true, I ſet a great value upon him, and daily entertain'd him at Taverns, and often ſupply'd him with Money. By my careſſing of him in this manner, I knew what Company *F-rg-ſ-n* uſed, and at what Taverns he drank, and upon what Subject he was a writing, *&c.*

It muſt here be obſerved, that I never exactly knew where *F-rg-ſ-n* lodg'd, neither indeed did I preſs to know, leſt it might bring me under ſuſpicion, greater Affairs being at this time

time in agitation. In *December*, or the beginning of *January* 1695. Mr. *Hewet* brought me a Book written by *F-rg-ſ-n*, relating to the *Scots Eaſt-India Company*; and acquainted me that he was then upon an extraordinary piece of Work, and ſo ſoon as it came out, I ſhould have one. In *Jan.* 1695. Mr. *Adamſon* a Watch-maker in *Holborn*, a Papiſt, and ſince dead, with whom I dieted, told me, that *F-rg-ſ-n* was writing a very ſharp Book; that one Capt. *V-rn-tti* (who was accuſed for the Murder of Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey*) Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n*'s great Companion, had promiſed him one of the Books ſo ſoon as they were printed: and accordingly Capt. *V-rn-tti* did afterwards, as Mr. *Adamſon* inform'd me, give him one of *F-rg-ſ-n*'s *Depredation* Books. This ſtill confirm'd me to believe what *Hewet* had before told me of the ſaid Book. I acquainted Mr. *Hewet* with what Capt. *V-rn-tti* had told Mr. *Adamſon*. He reply'd, it was true, and that Capt. *V-rn-tti* was the other Perſon, beſides himſelf, that Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n* confided in. By the way, if one is to judg of a Man by the company he keeps, he may preſume to ſay Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n* is of the *Red Letter ſtamp*, his Confidents, and the Perſons he moſt intruſts being of that *Perſwaſion*; and I have been inform'd he has now a Son in *Genoa* who is a *Prieſt*. *Hewet* aſſured me that I ſhould have one of the firſt of the *Depredation* Books

Books that was printed off, for he was to ſell them to make Money for *F-rg-ſ-n*; and that his Uncle *Holmes* and he were allow'd ſome Books for their trouble in diſpoſing of them. The truth of this I did not doubt, by reaſon I receiv'd a little before a Liſt of what Ships were loſt and taken in the War from Mr. *Holmes*, and he had ſeveral to diſpoſe of, and I ſuppoſe *F-rg-ſ-n* writ that. Within a few days after this, as I was walking with Mr. *Hewet*, he parted with me in *Drury-lane*, and then told me he was going to *F-rg-ſ-n*, and if any of the Books were printed, he would bring me one, if I would meet him in half an hour at the *Nags-head* Tavern in *James-ſtreet Covent-garden*. According to his Promiſe he came, and brought with him one of the *Depredation* Books, which he ſaid was written by Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n*, and that he juſt then receiv'd it from him, and it was corrected by him; I paid him half a Crown, tho the price they were ſold at was but eighteen Pence; which I thought hard, having the ſame day paid twenty Shillings to a Taylor for *Hewet*'s uſe.

The ſaid *Hewet* ſold many of the Books, and gave ſome away by Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n*'s order; and ſome of the Books, as *Hewet* told me, were ſent to his Uncle *Holmes*'s Houſe, and by him ſold and diſperſed.

Whilſt

Whilſt theſe Books were ſelling, Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n* being ſharp, preſs'd *Hewet* for the Money. Upon his making complaint to me, I gave *Hewet* three or four Shillings to make up his Account with *F-rg-ſ-n*, and in return he gave me another Book. The diſperſing and ſelling theſe Books was about the latter part of *January*, and the beginning of *February* 1695. I went with *Hewet* once into St. *Martins-lane*, when he carried a Book, as he told me, to one Mr. *M-rr-y* a Scots man, and a Tutor to the Lord *Kinnoule* a Papiſt: He acquainted me that *M-rr-y* aſſiſted *F-rg-ſ-n* with Money to print his Books. So that *Hewet* knew not only the Author, but alſo the Printer, and the Perſons who aſſiſted him with Money. He often told me that he had been a long time imploy'd in ſelling and diſperſing Libels, and that he, with one *Canning* a Bookſeller, diſpers'd the late King's *Declarations*. Here are ſufficient Reaſons to believe *F-rg-ſ-n* to be the Author and Publiſher of the many Infamous Libels before-mention'd, and proof ſufficient that *Hewet* was the diſperſer of them.

A short Account of what I have received from Mr. J. H. *Nephew to Major* Holmes, *and to Mr.* Holmes.

1. H*Ewet* told me, that he knew the Persons in the Proclamation, *viz.* Sir *George Barclay*, Major *Holmes*, *Chernock*, *Chambers*, *Boyse*, *Knightly*, *Porter*, *Blair*, &c. that he was employ'd to appoint meetings at Taverns, *viz.* at the *Nags-head* Tavern in *Covent-Garden*, &c. and frequently waited on Sir *George Barclay*, who was made a Major General, and to be principal Commander in the Assassination.

2. That he carried the Letters which came from *France* by the private Boat, and delivered the same to the L— *Arr*—, Lord *Milsbury*, Sir *William Parkyns*, Capt. *Chernock*, Sir *John Friend*, Capt. *N*—*le*, &c.

3. On *Sunday* the 5*th* of *January* 95. *Hewet* desired me to go with him from my Lodgings in *White-Hall* to St. *James*'s, to see what number of Guards attended the King. He took the number then, being about thirty, and said,

one

one of his Uncle Major *Holmes*'s Inſtructions was, when he came from *France*, to know how the King was attended when he went abroad, intimating then the *Deſign* upon the King. That Major *Holmes* brought over Commiſſions, and he had ſeen Sir *William Parkyns*'s Commiſſion for a Regiment, and that Sir *John Friend* was made a Colonel.

4. He told me, that he was at ſeveral Conſultations when the Aſſaſſination was treated on, and knew of the Orders which were ſent from *France* on that account, and the number of the Perſons that were engaged in that horrid Deſign.

5. *Hewet* told me of the proviſion of Horſes and Arms which were to have been employ'd in executing that Execrable Deſign of aſſaſſinating the King: that he was preſent with Major *Holmes* and *Chernock* when they went to buy Horſes; I was with *Hewet* when he went to buy Saddles and Swords for that uſe, on the 11*th* of *February*, 1695.

6. He told me the place where the Perſons were to quarter, in order to execute their barbarous Deſign upon the King, *viz.* at or near to *Turnham-green*.

7. He

7. He told me that he carried out Tickets for quartering ſeveral of the Conſpirators; and alſo carried Piſtols to ſeveral of the Aſſaſſinators, and that they were to be made uſe of for that end.

8. *Hewet* inform'd me on *Saturday*, the 22*d* of *February* 1695. that his Uncle *Holmes* called him up in the night to ſummon the Conſpirators to be ready, upon the Intelligence they expected from *Chambers*, their Spy at *Kenſington*, of the King's going out to hunt. He further told me, that ſome of the Perſons who were engag'd in the Aſſaſſination, were abſent that night from their Lodgings, being the 21*ſt* of *February* 95. which was one reaſon the Conſpirators did not go out, and that they had receiv'd Intelligence the King would not hunt that day: and aſſur'd me, if the Party had ſtirr'd out, he would have given me notice according to his promiſe.

9. That *Chambers* was particularly employ'd to give Intelligence from *Kenſington*. *Hewet* told me, that he ſuppoſed the *Tueſday* following would be the day.

10. *Hewet* inform'd me, that ſeveral of the Conſpirators were allow'd five Guineas *per* Month; and Major *Holmes* his Uncle, and

Sir *George Barclay* diſpoſed of the late King's Money here; and they bought up Horſes; and that he had receiv'd but one Guinea from them.

11. *Hewet* told me it vvas debated by ſome of the Aſſaſſinators, Whether he ſhould be one of their Number? and it vvas agreed he ſhould be one, and ſaid, It was no Sin to kill the P. of *O.*

12. *Hewet* declared to me, that he vvas to be a *Cornet* to Sir *William Parkyns*; and he knew of ſeveral that did aſſiſt vvith Horſe and Arms, and contribute Money. Particularly one Captain *Cr—pps* did depoſite between two and three hundred Pounds into Sir *William Parkyns*'s hands; and that the ſaid *Cr—pps* vvas to be a Captain in Sir *William Parkyns*'s Regiment.

13. *Hewet* attended *F-rg-ſ-n*, and delared to me that *F-rg-ſ-n* knew of the Deſign upon the King's Life; and that *F-rg-ſ-n* declared he vvould *mount* himſelf to meet the late King at his Landing, *&c.*

14. The ſaid *Hewet* went with a Preſent of two *French* counterfeit Pearl Necklaces, from his Uncle Major *Holmes* to Mr. *Roettier* in the *Tower*, together vvith a Meſſage from his ſaid Uncle

Uncle to Mr. *Roettier*, to bring or ſend to him ſome *Deys* from the *Tower*, to be ſent to *France* to the late King, to coin ſome Mill'd Money to pay his Army with when he landed in *England*. And the ſaid *Hewet* told me that the ſaid *Roettier* would bring to his Uncle ſome * *Deys* to be ſent to *France*: this was about the 10*th* or 11*th* of *January* 1695.

Sir, I will trouble you no more at this time, by reaſon I fear I have too much treſpas'd on your Patience: *I have given you matter of Fact, which is convincing*; that you may ſee what I have received from him was never publiſh'd in any *Coffee-Houſe* Papers. It had been impoſſible for Mr. *Hewet* to have diſcover'd them to me from time to time, as that horrid Plot was in *Agitation, or to have gueſs'd particulars*, unleſs he had been intruſted and privy to the deepeſt Secrets. Not one of the King's Evidence have as yet made a more ample Diſcovery than is contained in the aforeſaid Accounts; by which it is *apparent* he was particularly imploy'd and intruſted by his two Uncles, Major *Holmes*, and Mr. *Holmes*,

* *Note, that a Buſineſs of this nature was charged upon Mr.* Roettier, *to be near the time I gave in the account of the Deys, which was examined in Parliament a-bove a year after.*

and alſo by Sir *George Barclay* and Sir *William Parkyns*, &c. otherwiſe he could never have been Maſter of ſo great Secrets. I will give you an undeniable inſtance that Sir *William Parkyns* confided in *Hewet*. Immediately after the Plot broke out, and that Sir *William* hid, he came to *Hewet*, and gave him twenty Guineas, and a Letter for him to carry into the Country to his Lady. And when *Hewet* was ſeized, I remember a Letter was found in his Pocket from the Lady *Parkyns* to Sir *William*. *Hewet* acquainted me with his Commiſſion, and ſhewed me the Gold he was to give my Lady. Moreover, *Hewet* was at many of their Conſultations, and was imploy'd by the Conſpirators to appoint Meetings for ſeveral of that *Infernal Crew*, to meet, and conſult upon the Methods to put in execution their helliſh intended Deſign. And ſome of the Conſpirators at their Execution have declared themſelves to this effect, to endeavour to clear the reſt of the *Jacobite Faction* from the *aſperſion* of being thought privy to that horrid Deſign of aſſaſſinating the King, viz. *That no one knew of it, but ſuch perſons who were actually ingag'd to put the ſame in Execution.* This is an *extraordinary circumſtance* to believe that Mr. *J. H.* was one of the Conſpirators, and therefore able to give me a clear inſight into thoſe *Grand Affairs*, which I daily receiv'd from o-

thers

thers *in obſcure terms.* Now I ſuppoſe you will object.

1. *Objection.* Since you are ſatisfied of the truth of Mr. *Hewet*'s being intruſted and imploy'd by Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n*, by his giving you an account of ſeveral Libels which *F-rg-ſ-n* had written, and upon what Subject he was a writing; and being confirm'd in that matter by *J. H.* bringing you a Pamphlet intitul'd the *Depredation* Book, as he receiv'd it from *F-rg-ſ-n*'s own hand: Why did you not then, being imploy'd by the Government to make Diſcoveries, give a ſpeedy Account of the ſaid Book to a Secretary of State?

Anſwer. I gave notice to a Secretary of State, that I had entered into an acquaintance with one that attended *F-rg-ſ-n*, who was writing a ſcurrilous Pamphlet againſt the Government; and that ſo ſoon as it was printed, I ſhould have one, and I would ſend it to him. The very next day after I received the Pamphlet called the *Depredation* Book from Mr. *J. H.* I ſent it ſealed up in a Cover, with a Letter to the Secretary; and in that Letter I mentioned, I have herewith ſent a Pamphlet written by *Uncle*, as the Party call him, that is *F-rg-ſ-n*. I refer for confirmation to my Original Letters now in the *Lords Houſe*, lodg'd there in the Month of *January* 1696. or to my *Memoirs*,

moirs, which contain exact Copies of thoſe Letters. *Vid.* pag. 92.

2. *Object.* When Mr. *F-rg-ſ-n* and *Hewet* were both in Cuſtody after the Diſcovery of the Plot: Why did not you then confront *H.* and *F.* both together, and put ſuch Queſtions to them as concern'd the ſaid Book?

Anſwer. Within a day or two after *F-rg-ſ-n* was in Cuſtody, I went to the Secretaries Office, and deſired to confront them both together; and writ a Letter to that effect, and ſent it in to the principal Clerk of the Office. I receiv'd no Commands in that Affair. *Vid.* Copy of that Letter in my *Memoirs*, in the Month of *March* 1695.

3. *Object.* Why did not you give in the aforeſaid Accounts relating to the Plot, into the Secretary's Office from time to time, as you receiv'd them from *Hewet* and others, whilſt the Plot was in *Agitation?*

Anſwer. I gave in the aforeſaid Accounts to a Miniſter in the Government from time to time, as they came to my knowledg, during the time that moſt execrable Plot was in *agitation.* *Vid.* the original Letters now in the *Lords Houſe*, or in my *Memoirs.*

4. *Object.*

4. *Object.* When *Hewet* was in Custody, why did not you confront him, and put in Interrogatories to examine him upon?

Answer. I did confront the said *Hewet*, and drew up Interrogatories to examine him, and charg'd them upon him. *Vid.* the Interr. in my Memoirs in the Month of *March* 169⅝.

Sir, if you have any thing more to object, or desire to have a particular account of what I receiv'd from Sir *William Parkyns*, *Chernock*, *Holmes*, *Lea* the late King's Messenger, Capt. *Stow*, and others, I refer you to my *Memoirs*, which I hope will give you full satisfaction. For therein you will find that I have not been wanting in any part of a good Intelligencer: And that I have not put the Government to any considerable expence, having received but eighty pound from the D— of *S*—, and they have now Arms lodg'd in the *Tower*, which were seized *purely by my Discovery*, of *a far greater value*. I give you this *Hint*, by which you may judg, that I must have run my self in debt in this service, since I have receiv'd so little. It is true I had *a Quarterly allowance settled*, and a promise made, that *not only my Expences should be defray'd, but my self well rewarded and settled for the future*. How well that

that has been perform'd, I presume you are not unsensible. I am,

SIR,

Your most Humble Servant, *&c.*

Feb. 169$\frac{5}{7}$.

THE END.

ERRATA.

PAg. 63. lin. 15. read *Hertfordshire.* P. 84. l. *ult.* r. *Jan.* 13. 95. P. 132. l. 15. for *per* r. *pro.* P. 155. l. 8. r. *given in.* P. 3. of the Character, l. 14. r. *Character.*